More US warplanes expected to refuel here

STORY ON PAGE A2

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2001 ★ 74 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 288 ₱15

Expert on 'dirty money'?

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BY VOLT CONTRERAS

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada once called him a "corporate genius." Now Mark Jimenez's colleagues in Congress have appointed him to a post that may just give him a new title: "money-

EXPERT/ A18

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **UAAP: La Salle vs Ateneo** SPORTS / A21
- **Peñalosa seeks crown today** SPORTS / A20
- **T-bill yields expected to rise** BUSINESS / B4
- **Managers urge tax holidays** ACROSS / A15

Clinton: I tried to kill Bin Laden

US mission mounted after 1998 bombings

BILL CLINTON tried to kill Osama bin Laden, but failed.

The former US president admitted ordering in 1998 the capture and possible assassination of the suspected terrorist mastermind, who continuously has outsmarted Washington in a long-running cat-and-mouse game.

"I authorized the arrest and if necessary, the killing of Osama bin Laden, and we actually made contact with a group inside Afghanistan to do it. They were unsuccessful," Clinton told reporters in New York.

Last night, the Afghan Islamic Press said that Bin Laden had "disappeared," citing Taliban sources.

Clinton said he gave the go-ahead for the clandestine manhunt following the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in Africa—attacks for which Bin Laden has since been indicted in the United States.

"We did everything we could, everything that I thought appropriate," Clinton said.

He said that his administration also began training commandos for a possible ground assault aimed at capturing or killing Bin Laden, but that adequate intelligence and support from key foreign governments was lacking.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes in New York and Washington, there have been calls in the United States for a ban on the assassination of foreign leaders to be dropped.

Clinton's administration fingered Bin Laden following the attacks on the US embassies in east Africa and vowed vengeance against him.

The United States launched attacks on two bases of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network in Afghanistan, where he is a guest of the Taliban regime, as well as on a target in Sudan, which turned out to be a pharmaceutical factory.

But the difficulty of hitting Bin Laden's camps was immediately apparent. The Islamic extremist survived the attack and the camp was barely damaged. The 20 Bin Laden followers who were killed were caught in the open when the mis-

CLINTON/ A17

FBI may file raps vs Sayyaf

THE US Federal Bureau of Investigation may file charges of kidnapping against captured Abu Sayyaf members in US courts, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez disclosed yesterday, elaborating on an FBI request to interrogate suspects currently in the custody of the Philippine police.

Golez said the US request to question Abu Sayyaf kidnappers recently captured by Philippine troops was "part of ongoing cooperation" between Manila and Washington.

"From the outset, the FBI has been asking for our help in interviewing arrested members of the Abu Sayyaf . . . I understand they have a law in the United States that would make it possible for them to file legal cases against (them)," Golez said in an interview with ANC television.

"Most likely, that is the reason why they are asking that they be given the opportunity to further question these members of the Abu Sayyaf in order for them to file cases . . . for kidnapping these American nationals."

Asked if the government would hand over captured Abu Sayyaf kidnappers to Washington, Golez said

FBI/ A18

BEGGING God to keep humanity in peace, Pope John Paul II issues a dramatic appeal that the world not be allowed to slide into war. REUTERS

Pontiff calls for religious tolerance

ASTANA, Kazakhstan—Pope John Paul II ended his first Mass in Kazakhstan on Sunday with a special prayer for Christians and Muslims to work together for peace and not let the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks drive a further wedge between the two confessions.

"I wish to make an earnest call to everyone, Christians and the followers of other religions, that we work together to build a world without violence, a world that loves life and grows in justice and solidarity," the Pope said.

"We must not let what has happened lead to a deepening of divisions. Religion must never be used as a reason for conflict."

The Pope arrived in Astana late Saturday on his first foreign trip following the terrorist attacks in the United States.

The trip brought him to a region where many fear Islamic extremism emanating from nearby Afghanistan and where people are also afraid of the consequences of US retaliatory strikes against the country, where suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden is believed to be based.

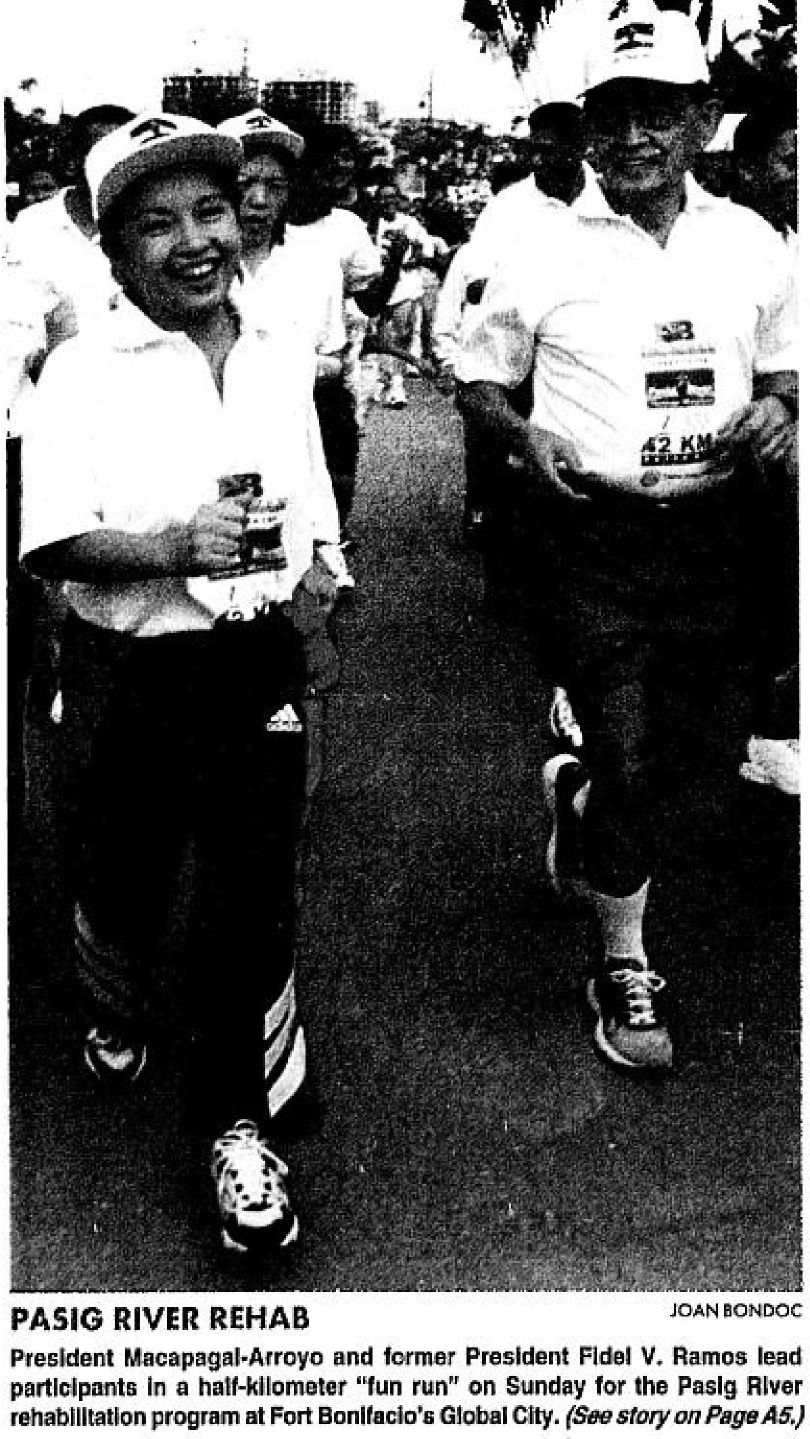
The Pope used his first Mass in Kazakhstan, a largely secular country divided roughly equally between Christians and Muslims, to call for religious reconciliation.

Addressing the devout and those "searching for truth," the Pope pleaded for people to follow the "logic of love" propagated by Jesus Christ, "above all through generosity to those in need."

"It is a logic that can bring together Christians and Muslims and commit them to work together for the 'civilization of love,'" the Pope told a crowd of about 50,000 in the city's central Mother of the Homeland Square.

In a special, English-language prayer at the end of the service, John Paul urged both Christians and Muslims to pray for a world where

PONTIFF/ A18



PASIG RIVER REHAB JOAN BONDOC

President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos lead participants in a half-kilometer "fun run" on Sunday for the Pasig River rehabilitation program at Fort Bonifacio's Global City. ***(See story on Page A5.)***

Terrorist hunt: More hot leads, confusion

WASHINGTON—The terrorist hunt turns up more by the day.

More hot leads. Many mirages. Fugitives wanted abroad. Arabic names that ring alarms here but are as common in the Middle East as Smith and Jones in America.

Confusion, yes. Evidence, too.

Through the haze of the most massive criminal investigation in US history, a body of knowledge is building.

The picture is emerging of a conspiracy or series of conspiracies hatched with the placement of experienced terrorists in the United States as far back as the mid-1990s to get the lay of the land, hone skills and insinuate themselves into American life.

It has become clearer their aims were, and likely still are, broader than the four airliners they commandeered to such devastating effect.

Investigators now think that five or six teams of hijackers were meant to be deployed on Sept. 11, and that the events that day were to be just the opening round of death dealt in a variety of ways, over a period of time.

In apparent breakthroughs overseas at week's end:

- French authorities arrested seven people for an alleged plot to harm US sites in France.
- German officials sought two fugitives facing more than 5,000 counts of murder each in the US attacks—a Yemeni national and a German of Moroccan origin, both suspected of aiding three of the hijackers and forming a terrorist group.
- British police questioned three men and a woman arrested on Friday under an anti-terrorism law that allows police to hold suspects for seven days without charges.

Still, despite a dragnet that has rounded up scores of people, including at least four who might have vital knowledge of the plot, no one on US soil has been charged directly in the terror attacks.

Huge gaps remain in the case.

TERRORIST/ A18

COALITION BUILDING

US lifts key sanctions against Pakistan, India

WASHINGTON—More pieces fell into place over the weekend for America's war planning and coalition building against international terrorism.

In appreciation for their help in the fight against terrorism, the United States lifted key sanctions imposed against Pakistan and India over their nuclear weapons programs.

The move came as an American delegation headed to Pakistan to lay the groundwork for a military strike against Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden—the No. 1 suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington—has taken refuge.

Also on the diplomatic front, US President George W. Bush spoke for an hour with Russian President Vladimir Putin, their third consultation since the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The United Arab Emirates on Saturday cut diplomatic relations with Afghanistan, leaving the Taliban regime more isolated in its showdown with the United States over Bin Laden.

In Saudi Arabia, an official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the kingdom was also "discussing whether to sever ties with the Taliban" after Kabul refused to hand over Bin Laden to US authorities.

On the military front, US officials said they were pleased with the show of cooperation by Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told Bush in a letter that he would allow US Air Force transport aircraft to use Turkish air space and airports.

Turkey, a member of Nato and a country with an overwhelmingly Muslim population, has

US/ A6

Extremists can't reopen religious divide for 'jihad'

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush highlighted the universality of the victims of terrorism when he pointed out in his address to the joint session of Congress last week that citizens of 80 other nations died in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The roster of deaths includes dozens of Pakistanis, more than 120 Israelis, 250 Indians, hundreds of Britons, and scores from El Salvador, Iran, Mexico and Japan.

Consulates in New York released other grim figures: 120-150 Germans missing and four confirmed dead; 35-50 Canadians missing; 20 Australians missing, three confirmed dead; 20 Colombians missing, one dead; and 18 Filipinos missing, two dead.

The dead came from all continents, and em-

EXTREMISTS/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

More US warplanes expected

EXPECT more US military aircraft to land in the Philippines for refueling in the next few days, an Air Force spokesman said yesterday. On the same day, the country's top civil aviation official confirmed that the Philippines has begun allowing US jets into the country as part of the US-led campaign against terrorism.

Col. Horacio Lapinid, spokesman of the Philippine Air Force, said three US warplanes are expected within the week.

"There is a notice for refueling of three planes although there is no definite day. These planes usually arrive within a few days after the notice is given. So I suppose the planes would be here within the week," Lapinid told reporters.

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said three F-18 Hornet fighter jets from the US military base in Kadena, Japan, refueled in Cebu last Thursday en route to deployment in the Middle East.

An unspecified number of US military planes have also been allowed to fly over the Philippines, he said. The country will provide other ground services while the aircraft ferry troops and equipment, he added.

The US Embassy in Manila has appointed liaison officers to coordinate with and seek permission for each flight, Yap said. Philippine laws would have to be observed, including a ban on nuclear weapons.

"We'll help them to the end. What are friends for?" Yap asked.

Yap's statements effectively contradicted those of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, who last Friday downplayed the presence last Thursday of the US jets in Cebu. The use of the country's bases for refueling of foreign aircraft from friendly countries was "common practice," he had said. "There is no reason to be apprehensive or to speculate anything out of it. They just used our facilities for refueling."

Lapinid last Friday echoed the same line. "This is a normal occurrence. There is nothing unusual about it and it does not appear to be directly connected with preparations against terrorism."

Mactan base

But yesterday, Lapinid disclosed that the second batch of fighter jets may refuel either in Subic Freeport in Zambales or at the Mactan Air Base, now known as the Benito Ebuen Air Base, in Cebu.

He did not directly state if the refueling is linked to the imminent attack on Afghanistan and its ruling Taliban group, accused by the US of coddling suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden. "They (US authorities) do not usually state that (the plane's purpose) in their request. They will lose their element of surprise."

"So far, they are allowed to gas up with prior coordination with the (Department of Foreign Affairs). As of now, they have authority to fly over our airspace anytime," Lapinid added.

The Philippines is strategically located along the fastest route for US aircraft from Asian bases to the Indian Ocean, where the United States maintains one of its largest naval bases.

The Macapagal administration has pledged full backing for Washington's international campaign against terrorism.

The National Security Council has also endorsed a proposal to join with Malaysia and Indonesia in a sub-regional anti-terrorism coalition. The three countries face growing Muslim extremism.

The three countries would share intelligence on terrorist activities and keep tighter control over their maritime borders to stop the flow of weapons and terrorists.

Yap said he will attend this week a general meeting of the 187-nation International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, which would focus on developing more effective ways of securing airports.

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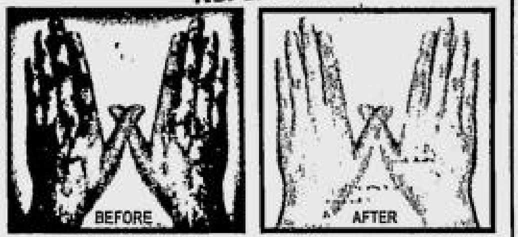

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Asia-Pacific nations pick RP as site of tourism meet

By N. Bordadora

DESPITE the Philippines' problems with terrorists, tourism industry leaders in the Asia-Pacific region have chosen the country to be the site of their convention next year.

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (Pata) picked the Philippines to host its annual meeting in 2002 despite the presence of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group said to enjoy the support of suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

The Pata has just concluded this year's directors meeting in Taipei, Taiwan.

"Pata is the Asia-Pacific's leader and authority in tourism and travel. A Pata meeting conveys to the world that the Philippines still means business despite recent global . events. We will showcase the best of Filipino hospitality and goodwill in these times that we need peace," said Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon in Taipei.

The Pata membership roster includes 41 national governments, 48 state and local tourism agencies, 66 airline companies and cruise lines, and nearly 2,000 travel agencies.

The Pata meeting would be a welcome run-up to the expected declaration by the World Tourism Organization of 2003 as Visit the Philippines Year.

The influential WTO is holding its 14th general assembly in Seoul, Korea this week.

Gordon said Philippine tourism promotion efforts are not about to diminish after the recent airplane attacks in the United States that have greatly affected air travel worldwide.

"Adjustments in the intensity of particular market thrusts will be made, but the DOT will definitely seek to protect inroads already made as well as carve out opportunities emerging from the situation," Gordon said, after his address to the Pata in Taipei.

"Domestic tourism will be pushed to the fullest.

It will have to play its acknowledged role of propping up countryside development and making Filipinos discover their own country," he said.

Gordon is still in Taipei promoting the DOT's Volunteer 12 program which encourages the estimated seven million overseas Filipino workers to bring home at least one foreign tourist a year.

Gas trouble forces PAL jet to return to Manila

A LOS ANGELES-bound Philippine Airlines jet returned to Manila's international airport about 40 minutes after takeoff because of fuel system problems, an official said Sunday.

The Boeing 747-400 jet returned to Manila on Saturday night for repairs and left Sunday after a 15-hour delay, officials said. It was not immediately known how many passengers were on board.

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said a problem prevented the pilots from using all of the aircraft's fuel and they decided to return to Manila for safety.

Yap said the flight was heavy with passengers and cargo because flights to the United States were suspended for several days following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11. AP

1 wounded in Basilan fighting

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A soldier was wounded in a clash with a fleeing group of Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrillas in Basilan province, the military said yesterday.

About 40 members of the Abu Sayyaf had tried to slip through a Marine cordon around the coastal town of Sumisip, triggering the fighting on Saturday, said Marine Col. Renato Miranda.

Corporal Prospero Alicer was wounded in the fighting, while the rebels are believed to have also suffered casualties judging from the bloodstains in the area, he said.

The Abu Sayyaf is holding US couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and 16 Filipino hostages in Basilan. AFP

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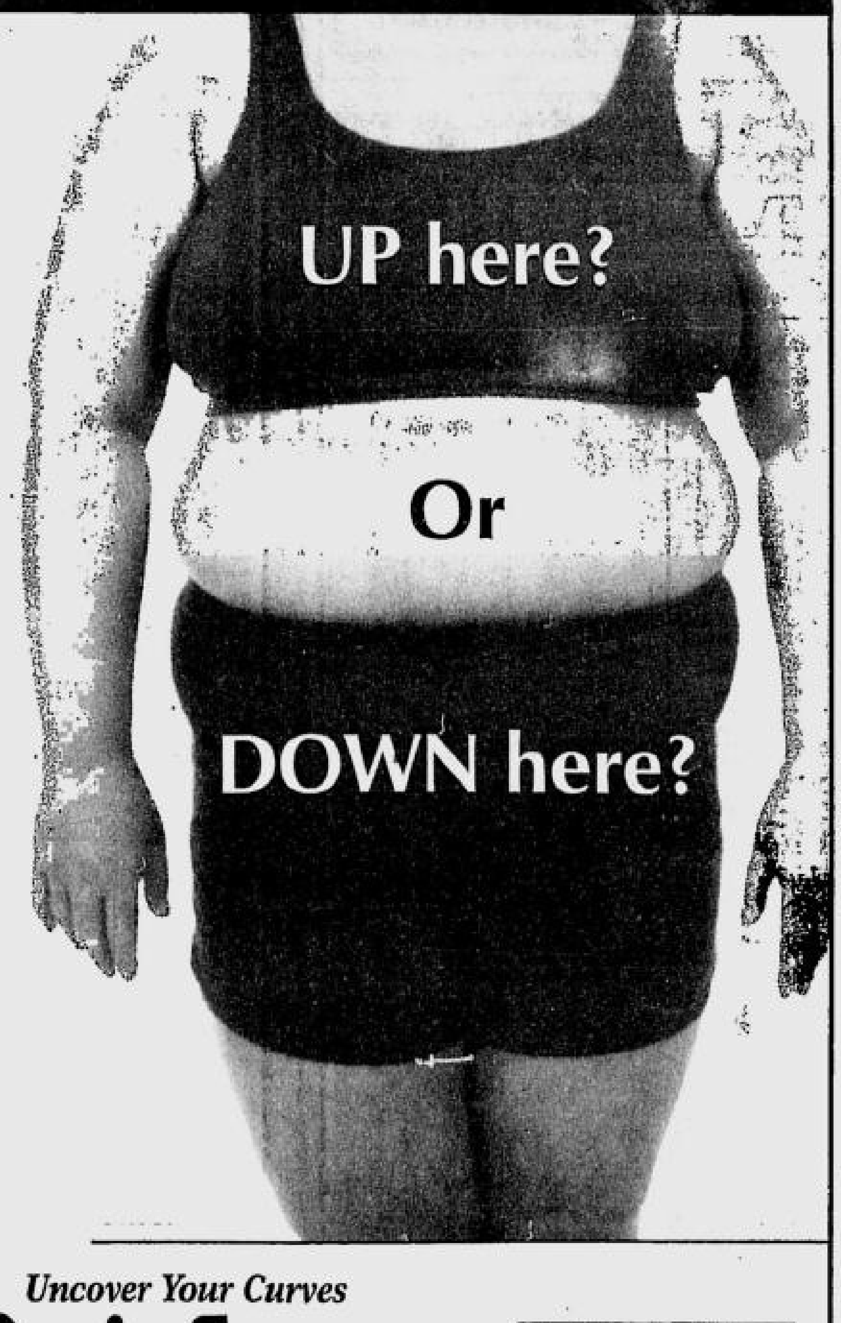
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Hopes high for Negros peace

BY ALCUIN PAPA AND CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

PHILIPPINE Army Chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos expressed optimism the peace agreement between the government and the leftist Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P) based on Negros Island would hold.

De los Santos, who attended the multi-sectoral conference on the peace pact held at the Bacolod City Convention Center Saturday, said the two sides renewed their commitment to the peace treaty they signed in December 2000.

"We are united in our stand to settle our differences through peaceful means," De los Santos said.

Organized by the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Peace Process headed by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, the conference tackled the implementation of the peace pact.

Representatives of church and student groups, local government officials and the business sector participated in the dialogue.

Negrenses, however, appeared to be divided over whether the government should renegotiate or adopt the peace agreement that was signed during the administration of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

During the conference, civil society groups demanded the renegotiation of the peace agreement, while local officials wanted its immediate implementation.

Golez, head of the government review panel, said their mandate was not to renegotiate but to recommend how the peace agreement should be implemented.

Still, he said, the concerns of the civil society groups will be reported to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It will be up to the President to decide what action to take," he said.

Golez said a Joint Enforcement Monitoring Committee (JEMC) will be formed to enforce the peace agreement during talks with the RPM-P.

The JEMC will be composed of two representatives each from the government and the RPM-P. Both groups will choose the fifth member.

The Estrada administration signed a peace agreement with the RPM-P on Dec. 10, 2000 in Don Salvador Benedicto town, 47 kilometers northwest of Bacolod City.

The RPM-P broke away from the Communist Party of the Philippines in the wake of widespread discontent over the leadership of Jose Ma. Sison.

Its military arm, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Bongcayao Brigade operates nationwide but the bulk of its forces are on Negros Island.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon and Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said local officials want the agreement implemented immediately.

"We are all out in our support for the peace agreement. It is long overdue and we hope it is implemented as soon as possible," said Arnaiz.

Local Government Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido Jr., a panel member, said the Department of Interior and Local Government and the police also support the peace agreement.

Civil society groups want to renegotiate provisions in the pact they said were disadvantageous to the people.

Jose Maria Montinola, a sugar planter representing civil society, said they are worried the RPA-ABB would be granted belligerency status in areas identified in the peace agreement as rebel-controlled.

He said the rebels should not be issued special permits to carry firearms.

"This provision in the agreement will never establish an environment conducive to genuine and lasting peace," Montinola said.

The P500-million development fund called for in the agreement should be disbursed through government line agencies to ensure control and accountability, he said.

Montinola said his group wants to be the JEMC's fifth member.

Msgr. Rogelio Cruz, administrator of the Diocese of Kabankalan City, said the peace agreement appeared to have been hastily forged to benefit businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, a known crony of Estrada.

"We cannot but cast doubt on the fact that Cojuangco brokered the peace agreement," he said. "With the tremendous investments he has in Negros, it would be naïve to think that he had no vested interest in doing so."

Arturo Tabara, RPM-P/RPA-ABB peace panel member, said Cojuangco only helped to get the peace talks back on track after Haydee Yorac resigned as government panel head to join the opposition against Estrada late last year.

A joint manifesto tackling specific guidelines of the peace pact is expected to be signed as a result of the conference.

The RPA-ABB led by Nilo de la Cruz and Stephen Paduano has amassed a strong following in the Negros and Panay provinces through the years with around 300 regular members.

De los Santos said that with the peace pact, the communist insurgency in the Visayas will be reduced by half.

DNA BREAKTHROUGH

When folklore turns out a boon to science . . .

BY A. TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

A MOTHER'S belief in local folklore provided the breakthrough in the first case of identification through DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) testing in the country.

Forensic experts from the University of the Philippines were able to identify through DNA testing one of the victims in the Paco orphanage fire in Manila almost three years ago.

This after Marissa Balasabas, whose year-old son John Isaiah died in the fire, turned in to the UP forensics team the preserved umbilical cord of her baby that she had kept in the belief that doing so would bring good luck.

"This is very significant. For the first time, we were able to positively identify a victim months after the incident—thanks to the mother's beliefs. Now we can say that some of our folklore have scientific value after all," forensics team head Dr. Raquel Fortun told the INQUIRER.

So far, only the remains of John Isaiah have been identified but the UP team said it could identify the 20 other victims of the fire using the same technique.

"We hope that through the INQUIRER, the relatives (of the other Paco fire victims) would come to us and bring their children's umbilical cords if they still have them," Fortun said.

The victims' remains were exhumed on March 19, 1999, or three months after the dawn fire that gutted the Asociacion de Damas de Filipinas Settlement House, after relatives had asked the UP forensics team to help them identify the children.

The team composed of multi-disciplinary scientists from the fields of pathology, anthropology, molecular biology and biotechnology and other fields of medicine undertook procedures that led to the recent breakthrough almost two years later.

Fortun lamented the procedures could have been shortened and made easier for the team had retrieval operations for the victims' remains been carefully and systematically done.

For instance, she said, there was no attempt to identify the victims by gender before they were placed in body bags.

The UP team started the identification process by organizing the victims by gender. Next, they tried to learn where in the building the remains were found since the spots could show the location of the victims' cribs.

The exhumed remains, however, were beyond reconstruction and the team had to make do with "anything useful," matching post and antemortem records.

Bones were X-rayed, teeth examined and profiled by dentists and blood was extracted.

The forensics team under Dr. Ma. Corazon de Ungria tried to get the DNA profile of the victims through their bones.

It is a long and expensive process which, for each victim, could amount to hundreds of thousands of pesos.

Fortunately, several local and foreign pharmaceutical companies have donated reagents and other chemicals needed in the process.

"One thing good that came out of the tragedy is that it has given hope to the relatives of victims of mass disasters," Fortun said.

Fortun and De Ungria left for Australia over the weekend to present their findings at the 7th Indo-Pacific Congress on Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences.

The UP team was composed of, aside from Fortun and De Ungria, Gay Calacal, Frederick Delfin, Myrna Lara, Dr. Cecille Lim, Dr. Gigi Miranda and her students, dentists Dr. Danilo Magtanong and Dr. Winston Cham, radiologist Dr. Gerardo Beltran, anthropologist Dr. Francisco Datar and other volunteers from the UP National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.

Militants to use 'flower power' in House

IN A move reminiscent of the anti-war protests of the '60s, women members of the militant group Sanlakas will pelt congressmen today with flowers and ask them to sign pledges they would not support the United States' call for an all-out war against terrorism.

Sanlakas-Youth and HIPIS (the Harmonious International Peace Initiative of Students) will lobby lawmakers today using "flower power" and pledge cards asking them to vote against any resolution endorsing US retaliatory strikes or committing Philippine facilities and troops to the war effort.

The campaign would include not just "flower power" of the '60s but also "girl power" of the '90s.

"The last time women made news in the House, they were accused of soliciting contracts in exchange for sex. Today, we will walk the corridors of Congress to ask for pledges in the spirit of love and peace," said Michelle Licudine, Sanlakas-Youth and HIPIS spokesperson.

"We believe we will find kindred modern-day hippies in the august halls of Congress," Licudine added.

She said female students will visit congressmen's offices and crash committee hearings to try and convince the legislators of the dangers of Filipino involvement in the all-out war.

Philip Tubeza

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CLEAN PASIG

'Fun run' revives old project

By Martin P. Marfil

AN eight-year-old project to clean up the Pasig River, which had been stalled during the previous Estrada administration, has been revived, with a "fun run" at Fort Bonifacio, attended by President Macapagal-Arroyo, kicking off the born-again campaign.

"We've been at it since 1993 but after (President Ramos') term, they didn't want us to help," former First Lady Amelita "Ming" Ramos, chair of the Clean and Green Foundation, said in Filipino.

"Now we are starting again. Our job is to make people aware that we really need to protect our environment and . . . clean up the Pasig River," she said.

Yesterday's half-kilometer run around a portion of the Fort Bonifacio Global City was aimed at raising public awareness on the need to clean up the polluted river and promote an annual activity, the 42-km Pasig River Heritage Marathon.

The others who joined the run were former President Fidel Ramos, artist Jim Paredes, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. president Ricardo Pascua, local officials and private sector representatives.

Ms Macapagal, just arrived from an overnight visit to Mindanao and wearing a white t-shirt and blue jogging pants, joined them.

Mrs. Ramos' Clean and Green Foundation, the same non-government organization that initiated the "Piso Para sa Pasig" fund campaign, is spearheading the Pasig clean-up project.

The former first lady clarified that the fund-raising campaign was not a government initiative.

"This is a project of Clean and Green, which is an NGO. We only raised P50 million, which is small," she said.

But the actual cleaning up is done by the government, she said.

"We just help. We go to schools, talk to the students about the environment, the Pasig River," she said.

The NGO also takes students on tours of the Pasig so they can see for themselves the condition of the river.

Mrs. Ramos said the public awareness campaign needed to be intensified.

During her husband's term, Mrs. Ramos said there was some improvement in the river's condition.

She said the Danish government was even inspired to give the project a grant after seeing what they had accomplished.

However, the Danish grant could not be used for the actual clean-up, only for research, she said.

For the campaign to be successful, everyone must help and cooperate, she said.

"Each one must do his part. We teach the squatters not to throw trash into the river and how to convert their garbage into compost. We tell them to collect the junk and junk dealers used to come to us to buy them for recycling," Mrs. Ramos said.

Even during the Estrada presidency, when the project was on hold, she said Clean and Green attempted to continue with the campaign, going on campus lecture tours.

The first Pasig River Heritage Marathon was held early this year, covering a distance of 42 km from Intramuros to the Global City.

The route took participants through the city's streets parallel to the Pasig and across 11 bridges.

A second marathon is scheduled for Feb. 24, 2002.

Thereafter the event will be held every last Sunday of February.

Dengue deaths hit 114, says DOH; 15,000 hospitalized

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE DEATH toll from dengue nationwide this year has reached 114 as of Sept. 14, while the number of hospital admissions due to the mosquito-borne disease has almost reached 15,000.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said on Friday, however, that there has been a downward trend in the number of dengue cases in the past two months.

From January to June this year, 42 persons died from dengue, while in the next two and a half months, another 72 patients succumbed.

The number of cases from January to June 2001 rose from 4,342, when the Department of Health raised a dengue alert, to 14,620 as of Sept. 14.

But after July, Dayrit said, the number of reported dengue cases declined in August and the first half of September.

"Although there were still new cases, a downward trend in (hospital) admissions was observed in most regions (of the country) based on the latest reports," Dayrit said. "This could be attributed to the sustained efforts of local governments and communities to conquer dengue."

From January to September 2001, the following regions had the highest number of dengue cases: Central Luzon with 3,074 reported admissions, the National Capital Region with 2,823 and Central Visayas with 2,237.

The DOH noted that most of the patients belonged to the one to 9-years-old age group, while most of those who died were less than a year old.

The DOH said it recently discovered a new strain of the dengue virus carried not by day-biting mosquitoes but by ones that bite at night, usually between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The dengue virus was commonly associated with the day-biting *aedes aegypti* or *aedes polvectus* mosquitoes, which usually bite their victims between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Dayrit said no outbreaks of the dreaded disease have been reported, although clusters of cases have been noted in Caloocan City, Manila, Malabon, Makati City, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zamboanga City.

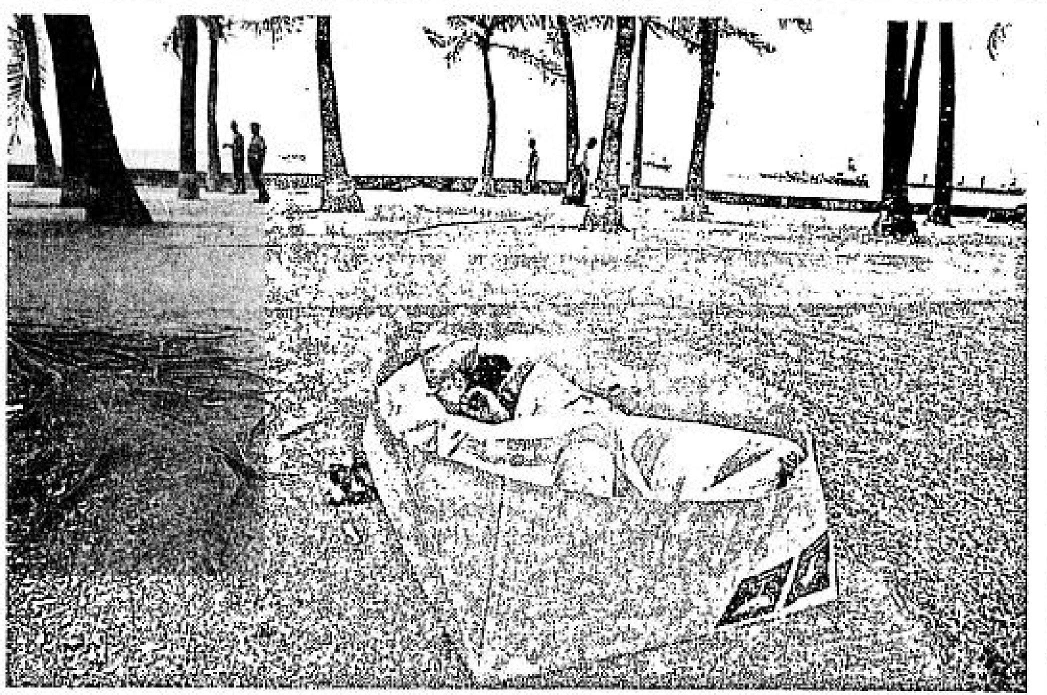
The DOH is monitoring dengue cases through laboratory-based surveillance at four hospitals, namely, the San Lazaro Hospital, Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center and the Davao Medical Center. The project, undertaken with the St. Luke's Medical Center, is aimed at confirming dengue cases by examining blood specimens of patients.

Homecoming for Ateneo Humanities grads, faculty

ALL alumni and past faculty of the Ateneo de Manila University College '65-2000 of the School of Humanities (English, Fine arts, Filipino, Interdisciplinary Studies, Modern Languages, Philosophy and Theology) are invited to come home on Sept. 29, 2001 at the Escaler Hall, Science Education Complex, Loyola Heights Campus. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m.

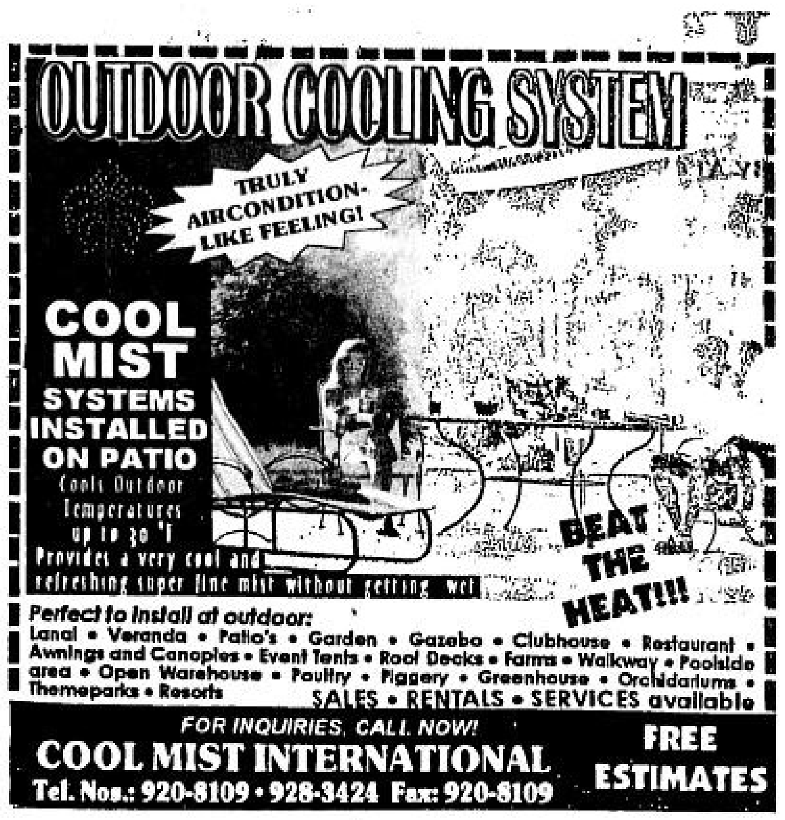
There will be a Mass after the program at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Come and renew ties with old classmates and esteemed faculty: Fr. Roque Ferriols, SJ, Fr. Joseph Galdon, SJ, Prof. Emmanuel Torres, Dr. Ramon Reyes and Dr. Benilda Santos.

For details, please call the Ateneo Alumni Office at 426-60-81/426-06001 local 4084, 4089 or e-mail acfc@admu.edu.ph.



HANDLE WITH CARE RANDY HORMILLOSA

On Roxas Boulevard in Manila, an enormous box mere meters away from the seawall serves as bed and bedroom for this sleeping couple. The box is the wrong side up, but "Fragile" can be understood in any language and from any angle. A pair of sandals on the side suggests the presence of a child.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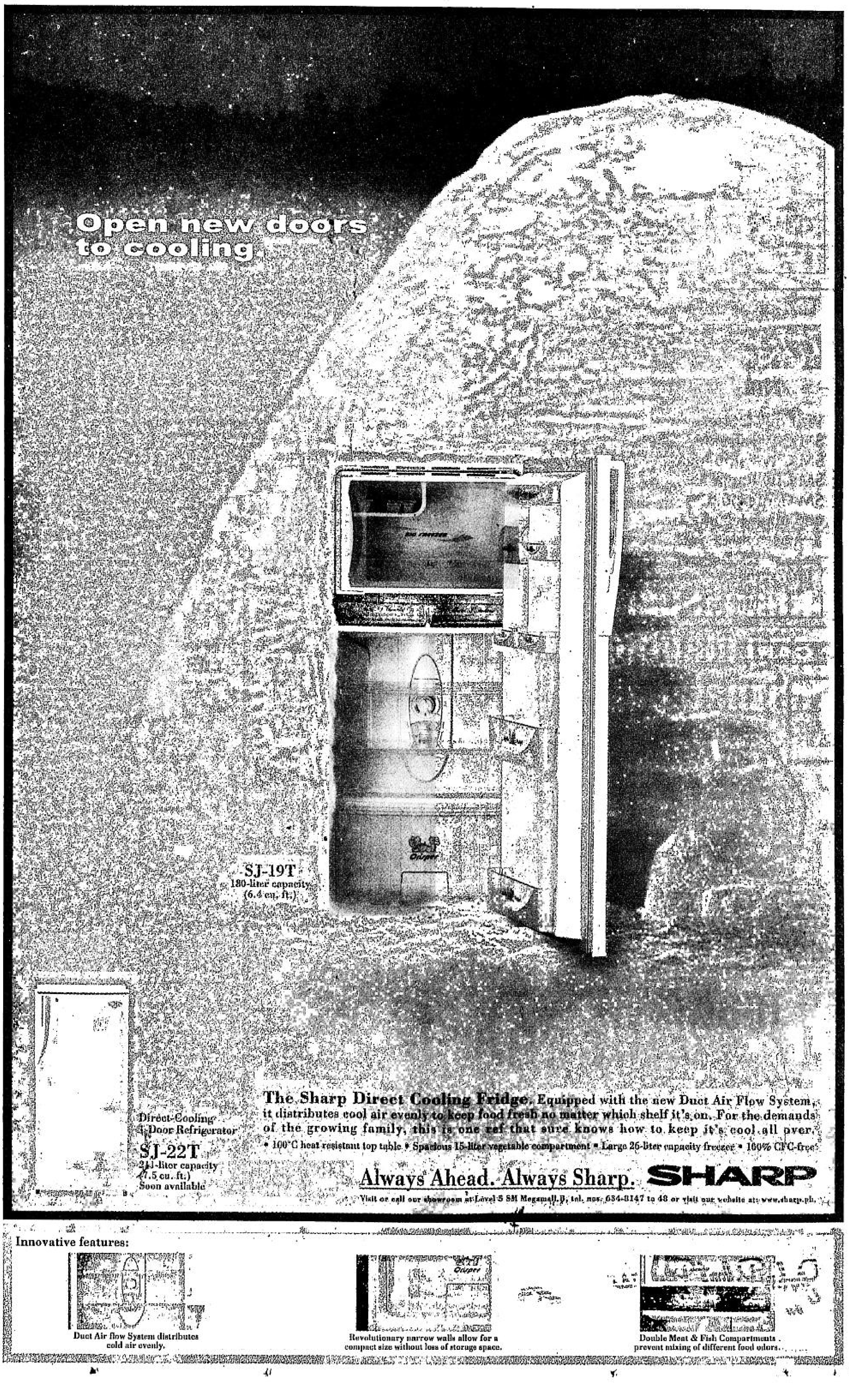
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US lifts key sanctions

(From page A1)

also offered to share intelligence.

Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles Wald, head of the US Central Command's air component, has shifted operations from the United States to Saudi Arabia, where he could plan and direct air attacks against Afghanistan and other possible targets in the region.

The United States has "a command and control center with Saudi Arabia. It's up and running and it's operational," a senior US official said.

B-52 bombers thundered away from Louisiana en route to the region earlier in the week. More than 100 combat and support aircraft have also been sent to the Gulf area.

The USS Kitty Hawk, the only US aircraft carrier stationed in the western Pacific, left Japan on Friday for an undisclosed location. Two carriers are already in the Gulf or Indian Ocean, and a third—the Theodore Roosevelt—left Norfolk, Virginia, during the week for the Mediterranean Sea and possibly points east.

US warplanes have also landed in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan as Putin, after an extended silence, voiced readiness to cooperate with US plans to strike Afghanistan—but only after these are approved by the UN Security Council.

Uzbek military sources said US jets were stationed just outside the Uzbek capital of Tashkent and were equipped with surveillance devices.

Heavily armed US attack helicopters are still stationed on a military base about 40 km east of Tashkent, following joint Nato-Uzbek military exercises in the region this month.

"We must unite forces of all civilized society," Putin said after he spoke with Bush. Even so, the Russian leader was not specific in his public comments about Russia's course in joining the "battle with terror."

Sanctions

In a statement late Saturday, Bush said maintaining sanctions that barred economic and military assistance to Pakistan and India "would not be in accordance with the national security interests of the United States.

Maleeha Lodhi, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, praised the move as "a very important development that will enable Pakistan to get economic aid."

A senior Pakistani official said Bush's decision lifted restrictions on military sales to Pakistan and made the country eligible for new economic aid.

The decision, however, does not apply to sanctions imposed after the 1999 Pakistani military takeover, meaning Pakistan is still ineligible for US loans and is prohibited from sending soldiers to America for training.

The United States has engaged Pakistan to intercede with the Taliban religious militia in a bid to force Bin Laden's expulsion from Afghanistan.

Despite anti-American sentiment in the country, Pakistan agreed last week to share military intelligence with the United States, allow the use of its air space by American military aircraft and provide US access to military facilities in any assault on Bin Laden.

In India, foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao also praised the US move. "With the removal of sanctions, we can strengthen a broad-based, forward-looking and mutually beneficial relationship with the US," Rao said.

India has also offered the United States use of its territory for a military strike against terrorists in Afghanistan. It has also supplied US investigators with intelligence on Bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The first Bush administration in 1990 stopped military and economic assistance to Pakistan over its suspected possession of nuclear weapons.

After both Pakistan and India conducted nuclear tests in 1999, the Clinton administration blocked US economic and military assistance, along with military and high technology sales and US support for World Bank loans.

In 1999, additional sanctions were applied to Pakistan after President Pervez Musharraf led a military coup that ousted an elected government.

Relations cut

In Dubai, the official Emirates News Agency said the UAE's decision on Saturday to cut diplomatic relations with Afghanistan was to take effect immediately.

The agency reported that the UAE Embassy staff in Kabul was ordered to leave Afghanistan within 24 hours while the Afghan Embassy in Abu Dhabi was considered closed.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the UAE are the only nations to have recognized the Taliban, a hardline Islamic militia that seized power in 1996.

Most countries recognize the government-in-exile of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose forces control only 5 percent of Afghanistan.

The UAE strongly denounced the attacks in the United States and said it would support the fight against terrorism.

Its decision to sever diplomatic ties with the Taliban increases pressure on the Afghan rulers whom the United States has repeatedly condemned as supporters of terrorism.

The UAE downgraded its relations with the Taliban in 1999 after the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Afghanistan for its refusal to hand over Bin Laden, who was then blamed for the deadly bombings on US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

The Taliban militia "has become a liability on all the countries that recognized it. I expect the Saudis, and even Pakistan, to take similar steps," said Abdul Khaleq Abdulla, a political analyst on Gulf affairs in the United Arab Emirates.

Abdulla said Saudi Arabia must consider its interests as it decides where it stands with the Taliban, and "those interests lie in stepping away from the Taliban, whose actions have become unacceptable."

In Saudi Arabia, an official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the kingdom was contemplating such a move but he did not say when such a decision would be made.

Pakistan

Pakistan has scaled back ties and pledged cooperation with the United States in any action against Afghanistan, although its foreign ministry said Saturday the country would maintain official relations with the Afghan government.

In 1998, Saudi Arabia announced without explanation that it was expelling the Afghan charge d'affaires in Riyadh and recalling its representative from Kabul.

The Saudis never clarified whether that constituted a severing or a downgrading of relations. The Afghan charge d'affaires in Riyadh said then that the Saudi move came because his country was harboring Bin Laden, a Saudi exile.

For its part, Pakistan brought home its ambassador to Kabul two months ago and recalled most of the rest of its diplomatic staff and their families after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Mohammed Riaz Khan said in Islamabad that Pakistan's Embassy and consulate in Kabul were operating with only a skeleton staff.

A Taliban security guard at the Pakistan Embassy, however, said Saturday that the last Pakistani officials had packed up their computers, papers and other luggage the night before, and left in a convoy of vehicles for their home country across the border.

"Now the embassy is closed, and no Pakistani official is in Kabul," guard Akhter Mohammed said.

In Islamabad, however, Khan said the Afghan Embassy in Pakistan "served as a window" for the world with the Taliban.

The Taliban leadership, however, has seldom appeared to take note of what the outside world thinks of their decisions, which are governed by an extremely strict interpretation of Islam. *AP*

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		•MD JEEPSTAR		MD Jeepstar
		Motolite Battery Check	WTC	Oriental/Motolite
		Car Wash Service	Boom Parking	US Chemical Products
		"Bayfresh Promotion"	WTC	Bayer Phils., Inc.
		"Pick-A-Prize Promo"	WTC	Ambi Pur Car by Sara Lee Phils., Inc.
PM	3:00-6:00	ISUZU - Seminar/Training		Isuzu Phils. Corp.
Wednesday, October 03				
AM	10:00-12:00nn	Motorshow Joyride (A Press Preview)	WTC	
PM	12:00	Open to trade/Public		
	4:00	Formal Opening/Ribbon Cutting	WTC	
Thursday, October 04				
PM	5:00	Best In Show Judging	WTC	
Friday, October 05				
AM	10:00-8:00PM	Best in Show Judging	WTC	
PM	3:00-5:00	Turtle Wax Demo:		
		"Auto Detailing"	WTC	US Chemical Products
		"Interior & Engine Detailing"	WTC	US Chemical Products
	5:00	IPV Dealers Night	WTC	MD Jeepstar
Saturday, October 06				
AM	10:00-4:00PM	MD Jeepstar Jeep Jamboree	WTC Driveway	MD Jeepstar
	10-00-5:00PM	Motorshow RC Races	Boom Parking	Boyel Enterprises
PM	12:00-4:00	Jeep Jam Fun Run	Boom Parking	MD Jeepstar
	5:00-6:00	Product demo: "Unique Engine Treatment"	WTC	Bizcom Int'l. Corp.
	5:00-8:00	MD Jeepstar Dealers Night	WTC	MD Jeepstar
		Jeep Jam Awarding	WTC	
Sunday, October 07				
AM	10:00-4:00PM	ULTRON Car Clubs Meet	WTC Driveway	Petron Corporation
		BLAZE Exotic Cars Slalom	Boom Parking	Petron Corporation
PM	4:00-5:00	Demo: "Turbo Stormy Air-Fuel Mixture	WTC	Bizcom Int'l. Corp.
	5:00	12th Motorshow Awarding		

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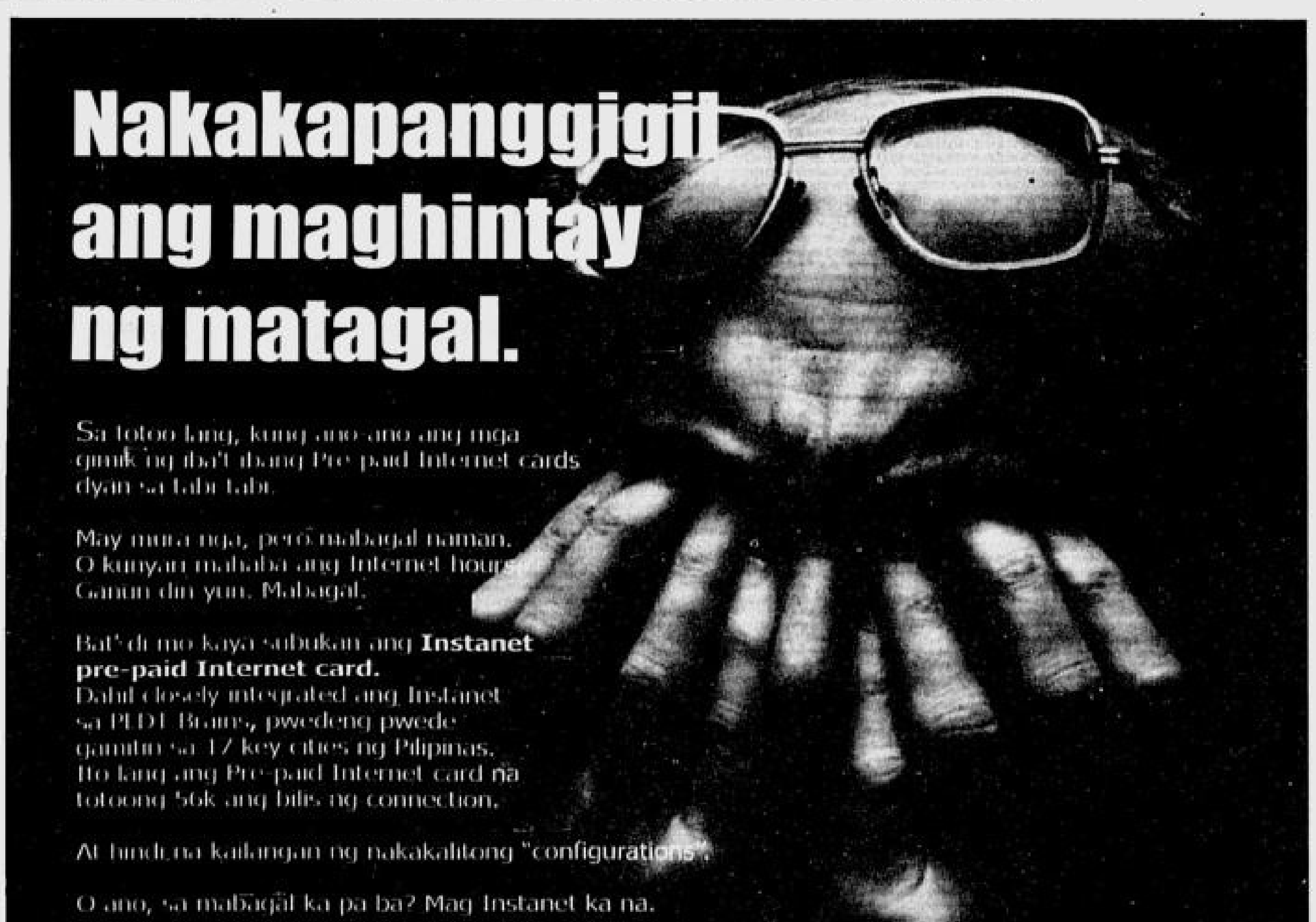

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'DIRTY MONEY' MEASURE

Senators hope to beat deadline

WITH the Sept. 30 deadline looming, Senate leaders said they will have their version of the anti-money laundering measure ready for debate today when Congress resumes its sessions after a two-week recess.

"There will be some questions asked and there might be some amendments (to the final version) . . . but we can make it (to the deadline)," majority Sen. Ramon Magsaysay said. (See related story in Business section, B1)

Magsaysay chairs the Senate committee on banks in charge of drawing up the Senate's version of the bill.

The House of Representatives has already passed an anti-money laundering bill at the committee level.

Yesterday, Magsaysay appealed to his fellow senators to help fast-track the approval of the measure.

"I am appealing to the senators in the majority and minority coalitions that there is a time frame," Magsaysay said.

The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, backed by most industrialized nations, had set a Sept. 30 deadline for three countries, including the Philippines, to take legislative action to combat money laundering or face sanctions.

The FATF lifted the deadline for Russia, which passed a bill in July, while the tiny Pacific island-nation of Nauru has been given until Nov. 30 to fine-tune its legislation to comply with FATF requirements.

Magsaysay expects Malacañang to certify the Senate committee report as urgent by noon today so that floor deliberations can begin when the Senate session resumes at 3 p.m.

At least four senators—Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., and Rodolfo Biazon—have expressed dissatisfaction with the Senate committee report on the bill, and are planning to recommend some changes.

But while the bill may still be amended, Magsaysay urged the senators not to touch the provisions that he said already complied with the FATF requirements.

These include provisions that criminalize money laundering in the country; require banks to report bank accounts suspected of containing laundered money and eliminate the Bank Secrecy Law, among others.

A third provision that could prove to be contentious concerns whether the Senate measure would allow a proposed anti-money laundering council to open suspicious bank accounts without the benefit of a court order.

The House version of the measure requires the council to obtain a court order.

Magsaysay said a court order would not be necessary as the authorities concerned would only be opening the suspected account for "information-gathering."

Under the proposed measure, the anti-money laundering council would be allowed to look into bank accounts suspected to contain laundered money amounting to P1 million and higher.

Citing records of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Magsaysay said the country has very few depositors with P1 million bank accounts.

He said 93 percent of bank account holders in the country have an average balance of not more than P200,000.

Among the amendments being proposed are: the deletion of a provision that calls for government to indemnify a person wrongly prosecuted for money laundering; authorize the central bank and not a money-laundering council to implement the new law; and make sure that banks that allow money-laundering activities be punished. *Christine Avendaño*

American dream lives on in hearts of OFWs in HK

By Blanche S. Rivera

AMERICA'S capital cities may be collapsing but the American dream lives on in the hearts of some Filipinos.

An initial group of 50 Filipino domestic helpers in Hong Kong recently took a qualifying examination for teaching jobs in the United States.

The testing was the brainchild of the Philippine ambassador-designate to the US, Albert del Rosario, who said he wanted to "bring back to their profession the misplaced Overseas Filipino Workers."

The 50 domestic helpers who took the examinations are all qualified teachers back in the Philippines.

The OMNI Consortium Inc., a recruitment agency for Filipino nurses and teachers bound for the US, arranged for the tests to be conducted at the Philippine International School-Hong Kong last Sept. 9, two days before the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"It's very important to give them opportunities to do what they have been trained to do," said OMNI chief executive officer Florita Tolentino.

She said the Del Rosario's thrust is to overseas workers who are employed as domestic helpers in other countries to their profession.

Tolentino said a study has shown that the US demand for teachers would balloon to two million in the next 10 years because fewer Americans are inclined to teach basic education.

She said US schools prefer to hire Filipinos because they have a good command of the English language and are "naturally caring and friendly."

The contract workers paid $130 to take the test.

Filipino teachers who qualify to teach in the US and are assigned to either Texas or California receive an average of $4,000 a month.

Tolentino said she did not consider her company's recruitment efforts as contributing to the brain drain in the country, which has been losing its best professionals to more lucrative jobs abroad.

"The government should look at it positively. We are a poor country and there is a need out there, so why don't you go and help yourself?" she said.

"There are no jobs here and instead of going as domestic helpers, they can go as teachers or nurses," she added.

She said Filipinos working in the United States can help boost the economy because of the huge dollar remittances that they send back to their families.

"If we need dollars, then this is better than going around looking for investors," she said. "Tourism will not be back in the next few years because of the kidnappings."

She said recruitment agencies like hers can create a niche abroad for Filipinos as educators in much the same way that they are now in demand as health workers.

The results of the exams will not be known until later this year.

'Maso' threatens to sue over turnaround of witness

AIRPORT concessionaires behind the P76-million plunder case against Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez have threatened to file "subornation and obstruction of justice" charges against those who allegedly coerced their sole witness to do "a 180-degree turn" on his testimony.

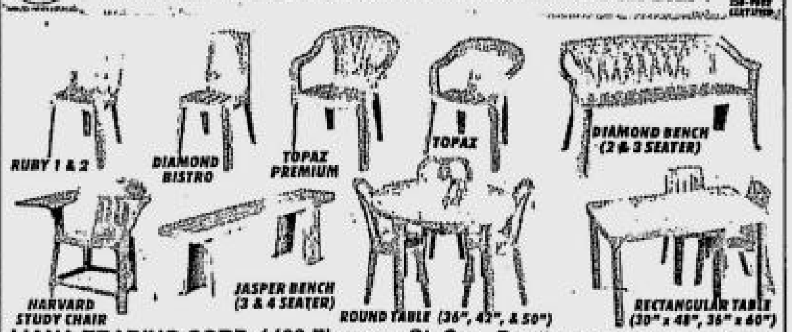
The spokesperson of the MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators (Maso), lawyer Perfecto Yasay Jr., did not say when charges would be filed against those who allegedly coerced Venner Mendoza, Maso's witness, to disown an affidavit he earlier signed alleging irregularities in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

Maso president Jovino Lorenzo Jr. said Mendoza, who had signed a second affidavit denouncing the first, had done so out of fear.

"I'm absolutely sure he was coerced to sign. The contract is over $300 million. Life is cheap nowadays. He chose to sign rather than die," Lorenzo said.

He accused Alvarez and other so-called "big fish" implicated in the case of "doing their best to prevent him (Mendoza) from telling the truth."

Maso has also filed criminal charges against Naia 3 contractor Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc., its ground handling services arm, Philippine Airport and Ground Services, subcontractor Wintrack Builders and several officials of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) *Abigail Ho*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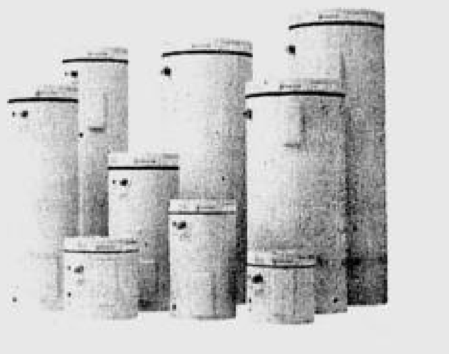
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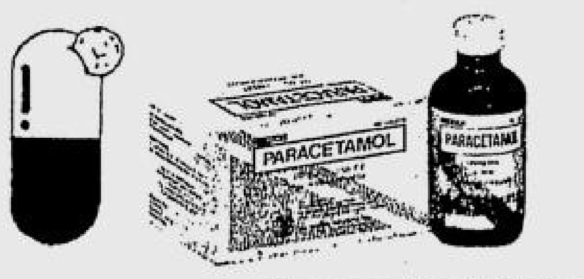
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PR police

EDITORIAL

DESCRIBED many times as the largest in US history, the investigation into the terrorist attacks that struck the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11 has moved with deliberate speed and gained impressive results. To be sure, there have been some lapses, but all told the investigation—unwieldy as it must be, with some 4,000 agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation alone—offers a textbook case on what to do and how to do it.

Would that the Philippine police sit up and actually take notes.

This is not to say that the country's police force has had no shining moments of its own. Only last month, in a classic entrapment operation, members of the PNP pulled off what law enforcers call a "sting," flushing out former officers of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force who were attempting to sell bugging equipment the PAOCTF had acquired during the waning days of the Estrada administration.

The PNP also played a key role in the 1995 arrest, in Pakistan, of Ramzi Zhmed Yousef, the mastermind behind the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. True, there was an element of luck involved (a member of Yousef's terrorist cell inadvertently started a fire at an apartment in Ermita, Manila), but the national police responded adroitly and speedily when the opportunity presented itself. Eleven police officers even testified at Yousef's New York trial, helping cement his conviction.

But ask the man on the street about criminal investigations, Philippine style, and chances are he will point to what amounts to a caricature of police work: the televised "presentation of suspects" or "presentation of evidence" that our police officials are wont to stage.

We do not mean to suggest that these presentations be done away with—only that these have been distorted by a police culture that prizes public relations at the expense of real investigative work.

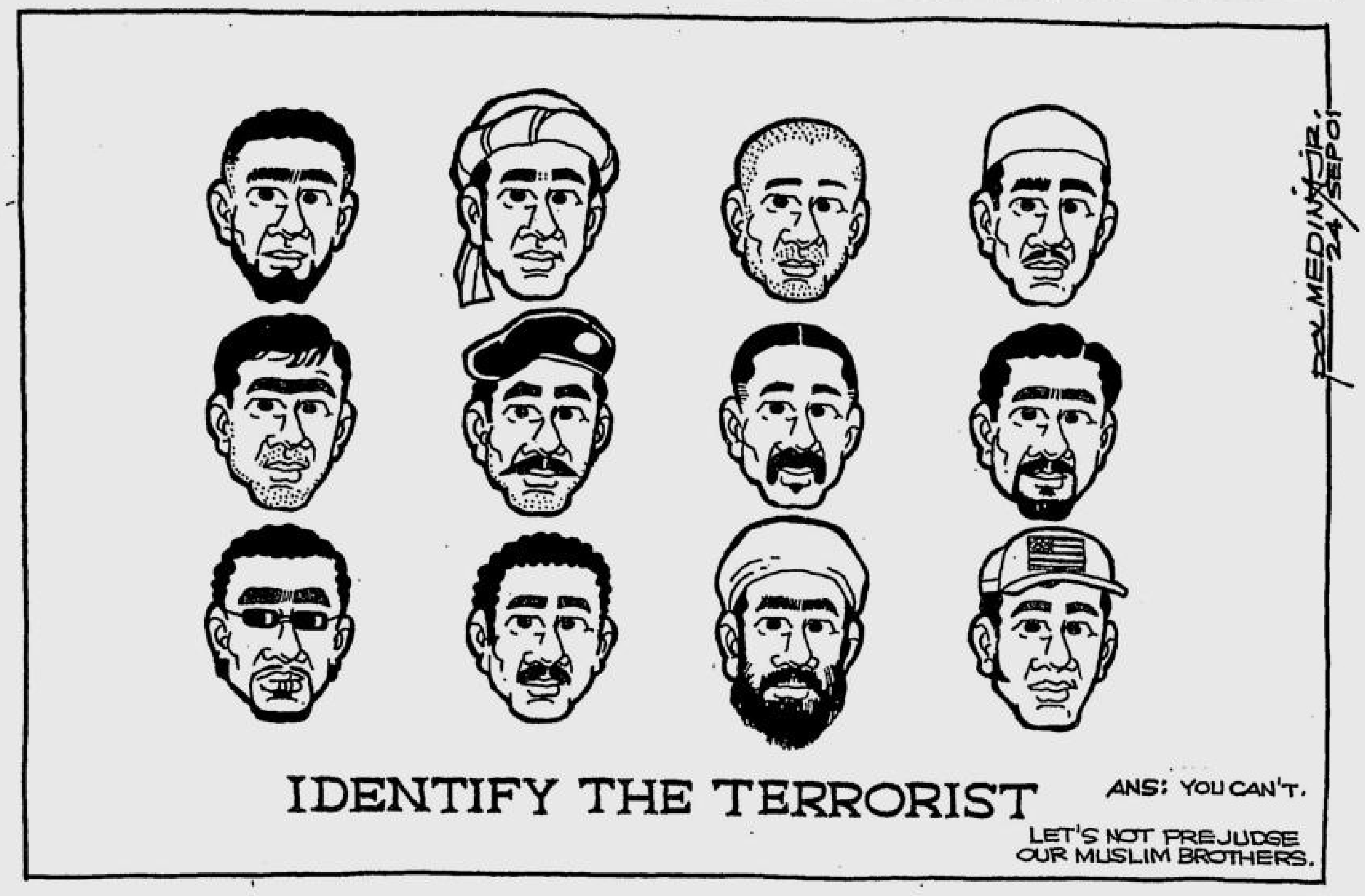
The breezy admission three weeks ago by police general Reynaldo Acop, former chief of the PNP's narcotics group—that the police regularly use *tawas,* or alum, in place of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) when they present evidence seized from drug traffickers to media—makes sense only in this context of PR-driven police work. He said it was "foolhardy" for the police to present all the shabu they seize. Fine; we can understand that. But why stage a presentation that purports to show the entire haul of illegal drugs? Wouldn't a sample package of the real thing, with an explanation from the police detailing the scale of the shipment, more than suffice?

The answer, as anyone who has a TV set can readily guess, lies in the PR value of the "evidence." A sample, a gram of shabu, isn't dramatic enough. But putting all the kilos of confiscated shabu on display will guarantee TV airtime—and, not coincidentally, make police officials preening over the haul look good onscreen. Never mind if, by Acop's admission, most of what the public sees on TV isn't for real. After all, to the police mindset that accepts the exchange of *tawas* for shabu, what the public sees isn't so much evidence as it is a set of props.

The same confusion of media coverage with real police work applies to the naming of suspects. It is a confusion that afflicts other government agencies. The result is a gradual but steady erosion in the practice of a basic civil right: being assumed innocent until proven guilty.

Witness the questioning of the Saudi Airlines pilot, Mohammad Bukhari, who was set to fly a scheduled flight from Manila to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the day after the terrorist strike. In front of a horde of reporters and TV cameras at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, he was taken into custody by agents of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency. The reason: suspicion that he was a brother—a mere brother—of Adnan Bukkari, identified by the FBI as a possible terrorist.

But the pilot was later released. Worse, the FBI admitted that Adnan Bukhari was mistakenly identified as a suspect and had, in fact, passed a lie detector test. Where does that leave the poor pilot, whose tumultuous detention on television marked him out as guilty? Just another prop in yet another PR show.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ANS: YOU CAN'T.
LET'S NOT PREJUDGE OUR MUSLIM BROTHERS.

So the people will know: The Customs controversies

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from last Friday)

IN FAIRNESS to all concerned and to give readers an accurate and as complete information as possible, on the twin controversies in the Bureau of Customs, this column gave space to comments in favor of SGS, the European company that inspects shipments bound for the Philippines, and the rejoinders of Deputy Commissioner Emma N. Rosqueta, who is being illegally replaced by an outsider in the BoC. SGS is claiming P5.4 billion from the BoC for previous work; Ms. Rosqueta is questioning some of the billings. Customs sources believe she is being replaced to remove a hindrance to the payment of the claims. Other customs sources made the pro-SGS comments, not SGS itself. This corner discussed these issues in several columns. The first part of these reactions were printed here last Sept. 21. This is the second part.

The issue: Rosqueta refused top sign the report because

a. Some SGS billings cover services after the contract ended.

b. Double billings

c. Billing for unreconciled transactions

d. SGS has to be penalized for certain erroneous reports.

SGS: "Again this is not true. Rosqueta signed the BoC-SGS Review Team report dated May 2, 2001, where she agreed on the resolution of cases under 4.1 and 4.3. Her only reservations were for items 4.2 and 4.4 but which are still pending/under further discussion with the Review "Team."

Rosqueta: "In addition to the 4, SGS billed the government for shipments to Duty Free Enterprises in violation of Executive Order 444. SGS inspected shipments below $500 in violation of Joint Order 1-91.

5. SGS: does not want to face issues for fear of losing its claim.

SGS: "This is not true. The truth is that SGS has been painstakingly and patiently discussing the issue with Rosqueta since August 1998. Rosqueta has audited 4 overseas offices of SGS—Yokohama and Kobe in Japan; Hamburg in Germany; and Geneva in Switzerland as well as the local SGS Manila offices. By year-end 2000, the issues remained unresolved. It was only in April 2000, when the BoC-SGS Review Team was created, that the issues were made clear and their discussion toward resolution started."

Rosqueta: "SGS could not submit the reports requested because they changed their computer system before the audit (September 1999) took place."

6. No less than Pardo's successor told her to break the impasse.

SGS: "Romulo, after being informed that the issues have been unresolved since 1998, created the BoC-SGS Review Team with deadline to resolve the issues last April 30, 2001. That agreed upon time, only about P3 billion between BoC and SGS as clearly payable to SGS. With Romulo's appointment as executive secretary, another deadline was set by Secretary Isidro Camacho, which was Aug. 15, 2001. The BoC—SGS Review Team would have beaten the deadline if the position of Deputy Commissioner was not put in question."

Rosqueta: "The controversy over my position had nothing to do with the deadline. Meetings were deferred because Mr. Robinson (of SGS) was out of the country. A week later, Deputy Commissioner Manahan went abroad followed by Millette Belicena of SGS. Why would both be out of the country almost at the same time? Planned? Couldn't be coincidence.

7. P5 billion is a lot of money, which the government of the Philippines cannot afford.

SGS: "SGS is aware of this and is precisely not pushing for one-time payment. At this stage, SGS only wants recognition of the amount deemed payable to them after the BoC-SGS Review Team makes its final report.

"It should be mentioned that when the SGS contract was set to expire last December 2000, former Secretary Pardo promised to pay SGS the three months extension of its service. It was on this basis that SGS agreed to the extension but Pardo didn't keep his promise."

Rosqueta: "In order to lessen SGS payable to the government, Commissioner Titus Villanueva, in a meeting on Feb. 14, 2001 in the Department of Finance, unduly burdened SGS. That report is precisely the document, which proves services were rendered. Why was Villanueva's term of office extended for six months when he should have compulsorily retired last Sept. 14, 2001 at the age of 65? So he could protect his actions as chairman of the SGS Appeals Committee and so that SGS could be paid its claim during his incumbency."

In a related development, Rep. Raul H. Gonzalez of Iloilo City has filed a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for an investigation of the Bureau of Customs, the Department of Finance and the Presidential Management Staff on the payment of P5.4 billion to SGS and the appointment of a Gil M. Valera to replace Ms. Rosqueta as deputy commissioner of customs and the relation of the attempted removal to the SGS claims for payment.

No

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DEMOCRAT senator and former vice presidential candidate Joe Lieberman would say after George Bush's speech to Congress last Thursday: "If I were a terrorist or a leader of a country harboring terrorists, I wouldn't go to sleep tonight feeling comfortable."

Maybe. But there is another group of people who won't go to bed these next nights feeling comfortable. And that is the people of this world who still have the capacity to pause and reflect. Bush's speech cannot assure them things will be all right from hereon, it can only assure them things won't. The line that most stands out from it, which American legislators have singled out for praise, is: "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." That is not a lofty thought, that is a base one.

That is the kind of thinking that fuels jihads, and the extremist actions that flow from them as rain from dark skies. The same kind of jihads and extremist actions that the enemies of this war have declared and employed, with horrific results. History at least shows that no good has ever come out of holy wars, with their depiction of the world in black and white, with their division of the world into friends and enemies, with their conscription of the world into all or nothing. Not from the Crusades, not from Moorish incursions into Europe, not from their modern-day equivalents.

Of course there is a need to fight international terrorism, a scourge that threatens all of civilization. Of course there is a need for countries to band together to fight terrorists, whose murderous hand falls, like Biblical rain, on the rich and the poor, on the good and the bad, on the guilty and the innocent. Truly, all countries must feel compelled not just by the treaties they have signed but by the ideals they hold to be sacred to band together to repulse the enemy at the gates. That is a noble fight. But it is so only to the extent that it holds fast to the purity of its intentions and motives.

That is what gives me, well, uncomfortable nights, about the action Bush is contemplating in retaliation for the attack on New York, an action bearing the signs of the wrath of God but harboring the motives of the wrath of man. I protested George Bush the Elder's Gulf War then, I protest George Bush the Younger's Afghan War now. I protested George Bush the Elder's concept of finite retribution then, I protest George Bush the Younger's concept of infinite justice now.

This is so for several reasons. The first and most pragmatic of which is that it is counterproductive. As American historians themselves have pointed out, America has bombed Baghdad pretty much back to the Stone Age and yet Saddam Hussein is still there. A great many of his compatriots have left the world—5 percent of the population have been decimated by the bombings and other American sanctions—but Saddam is still there. That alone must show the folly of the tack.

The historians moreover have an explanation for it. Which is quite simply that the tack falls into the very bait terrorists lay out for their enemies. Terrorists are not terrified by terror, they are gratified by it. That is their element, as violence is the element of criminals, as night is the element of vampires. Bombings do not obliterate them, they breed them like the hydra's teeth. Which is why I am not so sure about Lieberman's theory that if you are a terrorist, you will not go to sleep feeling comfortable after Bush vowed death to you and all those who harbor you. More likely, you will sleep soundly in the thought your very enemy is actively recruiting for you.

Bush says Osama bin Laden will have nowhere to turn to given that most Arab countries have joined the coalition to fight him. But how long will the coalition hold when the body count starts piling up from Baghdad-type bombings? When the spectacle of more people than were slaughtered in the twin towers in New York stares the Arab members of the coalition in the face?

Which brings me to an even more important point, which is that this concept of infinite justice is not just counterproductive, it is infinitely unjust. The likelihood of the body count piling up doesn't just come from the example of the Gulf War and its aftermath—and George Bush Senior was by no means the hawk George Bush Junior is—it comes from Bush Junior's philosophy itself. You are either with me or against me, you are either with America or you are with the terrorists. That is a terrifying thought.

That you cannot share America's grief or feel its pain if you do not agree to the sword of war being wielded in this way is a terrifying thought. That you cannot be America's friend, indeed that you can only be a terrorist or a harborer of terrorists, if you do not agree to America asking only when and how and not why is a terrifying thought. That you cannot be one with America, or indeed with the civilized world, unless you agree to a vision of the world driven into the camps of Armageddon, that is a terrifying thought. It is no less fanatical than the fanaticism it means to end.

That alone should show the folly of the action Bush means to take against Afghanistan, a whole country now presumed to be terrorist for harboring Osama bin Laden. That philosophy does recruit for terrorism, jacking up the number of terrorists to astronomical numbers overnight. By that definition, the majority of the world's peoples, if not their leaders, who grieve for the loss of American lives but who would also like to see America first show a heroic level of introspection or examination of conscience before it calls upon the world to march behind it in a holy cause, have become terrorists, or supporters of terrorists. By that definition, the majority of the world's peoples, if not their leaders, who want something done about terrorism, but who see the peace process as the only weapon that can really end terrorism, hewing it down to its roots like an ax, have become terrorists, or supporters of terrorists.

I said no to that then. I say no to that now.

Erap voted for Anti-Plunder bill no less than three times

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president and Cotabato Bishop Orlando Quevedo made a good point when he stressed in a recent statement that Christians and Muslims alike ought not to give religious color to the global war against terrorism. He stressed that while the Taliban, the ruling power in Afghanistan where Osama bin Laden is being given sanctuary, regards this global war as possessed of a religious nature, "other Islamic countries do not necessarily share this view." He noted that our own mainstream Muslim religious leaders in the Philippines "do not believe that a jihad (holy war) is justified." Quevedo stressed that in fact, the target of the global war against terrorism is not Islam or any Islamic state in so far as they are Islamic, but a group of terrorists who, "in the mind of the mainstream Muslim believers, are wrongfully using the name of Islam to promote a very narrow interpretation of Islam."

* * *

Bishop Quevedo's message recalls the effort that President George W. Bush took in recent days to stress this fundamental difference between the terrorists and the mainstream Muslim believers. Bush took pains to visit a mosque in Washington and conferred with Muslim leaders on the recent episodes, and afterwards, surrounded by these leaders, he emphasized to the American public that the enemy is the terrorist group that is desecrating Allah and the Muslim faith with their violent acts of destruction, not the peace-loving, law-abiding citizens of Arabic descent. The American leader felt constrained to make a show of unity with the Muslim leaders after reports spread of episodes of Americans harassing people of Arabic descent indiscriminately after the bombings, to the point where the latter could not even go to the supermarkets.

* * *

Here at home I can think of so many Muslim leaders and citizens who have long worked for peace and unity among Filipinos and in the world, and doubtless condemn the recent terroristic attacks. One such leader is former Sen. Santanina Rasul, who, in the recent 21st Philippine National Prayer Breakfast at the Manila Hotel last month, prayed for the Lord's forgiveness "for not thinking of the common good, and for not seeing beyond our wealth, our personal interests, our ethnicity, or our religion" as well as "for the times we have thought about how our diversity is a hindrance, rather than a blessing." Rasul also prayed: "We beg Thee for forgiveness, Almighty God, for not speaking the language of unity. When we have chosen to remain silent in the face of injustice, inequality and immorality. For the times we have chosen to speak of hate, anger and envy, when we could have expressed our love. For the times we have chosen to speak of what divides us, instead of what unites us." It's a, beautiful prayer worth praying by both Muslims and Christians alike.

* * *

From reports it seems that New York City's mayor Rudolph Guiliani has emerged an authentic hero of the terroristic attacks in his city and the darling of his constituents, after the indefatigable way he rallied them to unity and action. Guiliani's political career has been marked by an incredible see-sawing, and a year ago he was down and out, hounded by various scandals, a turbulent marriage and current divorce proceedings, prostate cancer and what have you—to the point that he chose to drop out of the Senate race against Hillary Clinton. But now he emerged from the New York crisis looking so strong he could lick anyone. It will be recalled that Guiliani's fame rose a decade ago when as district attorney of New York he authorized the prosecution of Imelda Marcos for violations of the anti-racketeering act in the US, even though, as former Senate and PCGG Chief Jovito Salonga pointed out to me, the actual prosecution was left to lawyers Charles Labella and Debra Livingston. Guiliani lost that jury decision on Imelda but he ran for mayor of New York City and won handily.

* * *

I asked Salonga what he thought about the claim of former President Joseph Estrada that the anti-plunder law under which he is being charged before the Sandiganbayan is so vaguely worded; that applying this law to him constitutes a violation of his constitutional right to be informed clearly of the charges being brought against him. Salonga was Senate President at that time and principal author of that law. Laughing at the mention of this argument, he pointed out that Erap voted for that law not less than three times: the first time during the second reading of the bill, the second during the third reading and the third during the bicameral conference committee's approval of the reconciled version. If after those times Erap didn't still understand the bill, quipped Salonga, then he is pretty hopeless, isn't he?

But one might ask, if this makes Erap pretty hopeless, what about his lead counsel, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who also voted for the plunder law exactly the same number of times as his client?

* * *

Earlier this column had written that the signing of the memorandum of agreement on the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project by the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Tokyo last week, as witnessed by President Macapagal, Subic Chief Felicito Payumo and other officials, will open up Northern and Central Luzon to industrial, agricultural and tourist development as these areas are being linked to the rest of Asean. But there was some inaccuracy: the four-lane $425 million expressway will consist of 92 km of toll road, not 47.5 km as reported here. This expressway, which will be wide enough to accommodate a future rail project component, will have a design speed of 120 km/hr., which means that travel between Subic and Clark should take less than 25 minutes.

* * *

As Subic Chief Payumo pointed out to this columnist in Tokyo, aside from opening up Northern and Central Luzon, the toll road will significantly decongest Metro Manila, as the cargo trucks from these areas will now be directed to and from Subic Port, instead of the Manila South Harbor. Exporters will be spared the trouble of being caught by the truck ban, the cost of the slow turn-around and the risk of hijacking will be minimized. Payumo stressed that the Subic-Clark segment will be finished by 2004-2005, together with the first 560-meter long berth of the Subic Port, while the Clark-Tarlac segment will be finished by 2005-2006, along with Subic's second berth.

With the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway becoming a reality, Subic Port's modernization can no longer wait. Toward this end, JBIC has extended a loan of $215 million for the construction of the container terminal and the two berths which will have a total capacity of 600,000 TEUs, expandable to 900,000 TEUs. Under this project, Subic will also get four gantry cranes and other port equipment.

Bite the bullet

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Fr.Eliseo R. Mercado Jr.

WITH the government's decision to hold the plebiscite on Aug. 14, with the cooperation and participation of the so-called Moro National Liberation Front's Council of the 15, people in the Southern Philippines were made to believe that the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the autonomy issues would finally be resolved.

The results of the plebiscite were more or less predicted in the provinces and cities where the Christians are in the majority. The government and the so-called MNLF Council of 15 would settle for the "expansion" of the previous ARMM with the province of Basilan and the cities of Marawi and Cotabato. It would have been a viable "alternative" had Cotabato City voted "yes."

The plebiscite and the November elections in the "expanded" ARMM with government and the so-called MNLF Council of the 15 partnership were devious concoction to get rid of MNLF chair Nur Misuari that went afoul. It was a very expensive concoction (P500 million for the plebiscite and another P500 million for the November ARMM elections) that went to naught.

The shock came a day after the plebiscite, when the advance counts showed that "no" votes won in Cotabato City, thus the "designed" new expanded ARMM with Cotabato City as its capital, was purely a figment of the mind of some people based somewhere in the National Capital Region along the Halls of Powers in the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

It was an "advice" to government to go ahead and "bite the bullet."

I have been often asked what comes next post Aug. 14th Plebiscite? Are we not supposed to "bite the bullet" with the expanded ARMM? The plebiscite was conducted specifically because of the ARMM elections, that is, to complete the legal "ouster" of Misuari.

Will Misuari, the sole and legitimate representative of the Bangsamoro people, takes his legal "ouster" sitting down? No doubt, Misuari remains the acknowledged leader and symbol of the Bangsamoro struggle. The Council of the 15 may have some following among friends who continue to receive favors from government. But there is no way that this Council will replace the stature and charisma of Misuari. The MNLF chair and ARMM governor may not be a desired manager or administrator of government bureaucracy, but there is no doubt about the charisma and the charm of the guy as a revolutionary leader.

Misuari is an icon in the Bangsamoro struggle. Whether we like him or not, Nur is the "Maas" to his constituency. It is a title in Tausug that is akin to the Vietnamese's "Ho" (as in Ho Chi Min).

There are only three people (Maas Kamlon, Maas Caluang and Maas Nur) who have acquired that title in the contemporary Bangsamoro struggle.

Maas Nur will not participate in the newly constituted ARMM November elections. The plebiscite and the November elections, to him, are betrayals of the government's international commitment to the 1996 Final Peace Accord with the MNLF.

There will be endless debates between the GRP and the MNLF as to the meaning of this international commitment. But in the final analysis, what truly counts is the "mainstreaming" of the MNLF combatants and constituency. This is happening albeit slowly and grudgingly, but peace is a process and often a painful one.

Will Misuari and his loyal MNLF with their families turn their back from the 1996 Agreement and resume the Bangsamoro people struggle that has already been peacefully negotiated? There are people in government who categorically claim that Misuari can no longer go back to the hills. This may be true, but he was never in the hills in the first place.

During the crucial struggle of the MNLF he was all over the world hammering and winning support and recognition for the MNLF. The real plum in his hat is the Organization of Islamic Countries' recognition, support and respect accorded the Bangsamoro people's struggle under his leadership.

Yes, modern struggles are no longer won in the hills or in battlefields. They are won in the halls of the United Nations and the OIC.

Here come the November elections. The possibility of a real break between the GRP and the MNLF is the crucial issue government has to face. The government may find the bullet too hard to bite. In the first place, the government need not "bite the bullet." I cannot understand "peace advisers" who counsel "to bite the bullet." All the while I thought of real peace advisers as people who never run out of peaceful alternatives and viable options even in situation of extreme difficulties. Madam President, beware of your peace advisers.

Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado Jr., OMI, is president of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City.

Bin Laden wants to establish a theocracy

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

Institute on Church and Social Issues

GEORGE BUSH places terrorism in the Murderers Row of recent human history. In a stirring speech before the US Congress last week, he equated terrorism with fascism, Nazism and totalitarianism and other great evils of the last century. In rallying America and the world to a war on terrorism, he does well to allude to these 20th century antagonists. They fought America for the future of humanity and the world, but they were all defeated because they were morally flawed conceptions. And, as in the case of the Soviet Union's self-destruction, they fell by the weight of their sheer inoperability and ultimate unfitness as a social system. Although this doesn't mean that the American system is perfect, it does mean that in the Darwinian sense of competition for survival of the fittest, it has proved to be superior. By the late 20th century, progressive, prosperous America was a worthy model to be emulated by the rest of the world as a successful human society.

In pinpointing the enemy during this new war, he identified the Al-Qaida network of terrorists associated with Osama bin Laden

He did not say what beliefs they held, but Osama bin Laden has for years openly advocated the establishment of fundamentalist Muslim states, like the Islamic Republic of Iran or Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, which are essentially Islamic theocracies in which political and military power are controlled by state religious leaders. There are even indications he is aiming to organize a transnational Islamic fundamentalist movement that would surely rival the trend toward liberal democracy and free-enterprise capitalism that seemed so invincible and inexorable a scant few weeks ago.

Just as much as totalitarian states, which tolerated no religion but the worship of the Communist Party and personality cults of its great leaders, Islamic fundamentalists would be intolerant of every other religion but the official state religion. Witness the recent destruction of Buddhist statuary in Afghanistan by the Taliban for being non-Muslim artifacts. Such theocracies would have little support in the West and places like the Philippines, but there is no way to preclude their ascendancy in the Islamic world.

This certainly represents a big challenge to people who believe that liberal democracy and capitalist free enterprise are the way for the whole world to go if the kind of progressive and prosperous society that the United States has achieved can be reproduced elsewhere.

I know that George W. Bush has not been greatly admired in the Philippines, at least by mainstream columnists and writers, since for some inexplicable reason, their tastes in American politicians tend to run toward the Democratic side of the aisle. Maybe the conservative Republican Party has never successfully established a rapport with our intelligentsia, even though Bill Clinton acted more like a Republican than any Democrat in the White House ever did. But Bush must now step up to the plate and allow history to mold him into a great leader. It will not be easy.

Although the resources at his command appear to be enormous, they may not be effective or decisive in the new war. The key piece of jargon being used is the term "asymmetric." This refers to the fact that although the targets on the American side are clearly visible, which includes all military and civilian assets, like the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the targets on the terrorists side cannot even be clearly identified. No one has even owned up to the attacks. They can strike again anywhere, with even deadlier force. (Over the weekend Time Magazine released an exclusive story revealing the discovery that suspected terrorists may have been studying the use of crop dusters, perhaps to disseminate chemical or biological warfare agents.)

So although America's arsenals are impressive in a conventional sense, it remains to be seen how effective they will be. We must remember that the development of American military technology has not been greatly applied to the kind of civil defense that must now be undertaken.

Friends and relatives calling and e-mailing from the United States, have made it all too clear that the real battleground of America's new war is in America itself. Even if apocalyptic events in Afghanistan this week take the headlines, the shattering of a long-standing confidence in the security of American soil may ultimately represent the greater damage done by the jetliners at the World Trade Center

The eerily Afrikaner-sounding "Office of Homeland Security," to be headed by Pennsylvania governor and Bush ally Tom Ridge, brings home the phenomenal shift in the American scene brought on by the attacks, and the heightened feeling of vulnerability on the part of US officials. In making his valiant acceptance speech, simultaneously resigning as Governor, Ridge expressed a hope that the price America must pay for security will not include the very way of life that has made America the envy of the world. Indeed, a rising wave of hate crimes against people stereotyped as "the enemy," is becoming an increasing concern.

Fortunately, the situation is different from the period immediately following the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor, when the media of that time exacerbated the situation by amplifying racist sentiments against Americans of Japanese origin. Media is more sensitive to this danger now, thanks in great part to the efforts of those Japanese-Americans that were wrongfully arrested and put in concentration camps at the start of American involvement in World War II. I don't think there will be a repeat of that embarrassing chapter in this case.

Fed up with news about US blasts

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

ALMOST two weeks after unnamed terrorists hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the event continues to attract the attention of local media.

It was as if all other newsworthy events in our country and elsewhere grounded to a halt to make way for the what may be considered the worst tragedy ever to hit the United States since Pearl Harbor. The world now awaits with apprehension the action the Americans will take to avenge the attack at their homeland.

A reader, BB Marley, expressed disappointment with the way the INQUIRER handled the news about the Sept. 11 terrorist acts. He wrote: "In the days following the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the editors have successfully turned the entire front pages into the foreign news section. Sure, it's the biggest news story of the year, but did you really have to crowd out all the other important news from our own country?

"Are we to believe that news and analyses about the geopolitical ripples generated by the US's newly minted strategies for defeating terrorism and its own plans for revenge to be more important than, say, the Abu Sayyaf (remember them?) which has vowed to achieve an independent Islamic state in Mindanao? What about the alleged collusion between the Abus and Mindanao-based generals?

"Yet all we read about day in and day out from the INQUIRER is how many NYC firemen were killed, how the US is mounting the biggest criminal investigation in its history and how it plans to retaliate. We get enough of that fare from TV so can you put something else on the front pages?"

"Make no mistake here, I'm not apathetic to the plight of those whose lives were shattered by some abominable massacres. I would like to see those responsible brought to justice. But why won't you even allot 40 percent, or if that is too painful, 30 percent of your front and succeeding pages to news that is relevant and directly affects the lives of the Filipino people?"

Big event

The letter I quoted in part above is representative of the other letters and calls I received last week on the same subject matter. One reader commented that "days after the bombing, the INQUIRER was converted into a newsletter of international news agencies AP, Reuters and Agence France Presse." She said the name of the newspaper should have been changed to "Philippine Daily Copier."

According to the senior editors, it was inevitable for the newspaper to give prominent treatment to the attacks because they were the week's biggest event in the world. The magnitude of the damages caused, number of casualties and adverse effects on world peace justified the high profile and extensive playup.

Although the incidents are 10,000 miles removed from the country, their long-term effects on our economy and security of the region should be brought to the attention of the Filipinos. The problems caused by the terrorist attacks will eventually be felt by the country in terms of lower export earnings, higher debt payments and less dollar remittances from Filipino expat workers.

An editor explained that our homegrown Abu Sayyaf bandits are believed to have links with Osama bin Laden whom the Americans consider (not just suspect) to be the brains behind the well-coordinated destruction of lives and properties. It is not remote that traces of the Sept. 11 criminal activities will be found in the Philippines.

I understand the position of the editors. It is consistent with their stand in regard to the front-page treatment earlier given, for example, to the drawn-out battles between government troops and members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, or the kidnap and ransom drama initiated by the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

But was it necessary for the newspaper to devote so much space and ink to the World Trade Center and Pentagon, attacks to the point of pushing out other worthwhile local news? I am not referring to news about rapes, killings, robberies or other crimes that traditionally attract readers' attention out of curiosity or fondness for the gory and bizarre.

Surely, there are events outside Metro Manila that are of interest to the rest of the readers nationwide aside from the usual fare that the media love to focus their attention on. Positive or heartwarming news is welcome any day of the week if only to balance news reports that show The thing that turned me off most about the coverage of the terrorist attacks was the comments of senators and congressmen. Their statements ranged from ridiculous to stupid to nonsensical. They gave armchair analyses that showed their ignorance of the nature and scope of terrorist activities. The newspaper would have done the public a big favor if it ignored those publicity hounds.

Substance mix-up

The proper way to report on dangerous or controlled substances was the subject of the letter from Merville Park, Parañaque who asked that his identity be withheld for personal reasons.

He wrote: "I often see headlines like 'Four nabbed in pot session' and find out in the article that the people were caught using shabu instead of pot. Let's get our drugs straight – shabu is shabu, and pot is pot (or more correctly stated, pot is marijuana). Therefore, a 'shabu session' would be the right thing to call it.

"Also, I often read lines like 'The suspects were caught sniffing shabu…' which, again, is wrong. Shabu is not snipped—it is smoked (or sometimes injected, if you're hardcore). It's glue, like rugby, and solvents that are sniffed. Cocaine (even though snorted is probably the best way to put it). Heroin is injected and also sometimes smoked, if freebased."

From the way the reader made the differentiation in dangerous substances, it looks like he was talking from experience or may have spent a lot of time with somebody who used the products mentioned at one time or another. But one thing is sure, his observations are correct.

Noticeably, the reader did not say anything about the exotic pills (example, "ecstasy") that reportedly abound in Metro Manila's high-end entertainment centers. Those pills are as dangerous, if not more, as the substances he mentioned.

In any event, the Metro editor took the suggestions graciously and said he will remind the reporters under him to be more careful in reporting events that involve those substances.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The *Readers' Advocate*" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Troop support

"There's a higher possibility of the US offering us troops or logistics to finally finish off the Abu Sayyaf, than the Philippines being asked to send soldiers to Afghanistan to help the US hunt down Osama bin Laden."*

—*Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay*

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Missed the point

IT'S unfortunate that lawyer Rene Saguisag seems to have missed the point in his rejoinder to my letter. I do not dispute his many battles with the Marcoses, which he enumerates in all its glory. (In fact I was one of his many admirers.) But that's precisely the point. Why did he fight them at all? Why did he not apply to the Marcoses the principle of "innocent until proven guilty" which he supposedly holds so dear? If he had understood what I was driving at, he would have seen that my advice for him to lawyer for Imelda and her children was meant to be sarcastic. Maybe it didn't sound that way because it was in print. Hopefully I can get the chance one of these days to tell him to his face what I meant, with the proper inflection and facial expression, so that he can actually taste the sarcasm.—**NOEL TRINIDAD, 33 Firefly Street, Valle Verde VI, Pasig City**

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Veterans fight for inclusion in Congress

WE the undersigned veterans and widows of veterans would like to request you to publish our plight.

The Veterans Federation Party is not governed by the Veterans Federation of the Philippines. Veterans formed this party so we could bring to the attention of Congress our plight as veterans.

In the first elections for marginalized people's party representative, we were able to vote in Congressman Eduardo Pilapil. No questions were asked then. He ably worked for the rights of veterans.

The meager pensions that veterans are presently receiving, and other benefits that go to them because of laws already passed, may come to naught should veterans be denied representation in Congress.

The bulk of the veterans and widows are also from the labor, farmer and fisherman sector. If veterans as a distinct and unique sector are not considered marginalized as claimed by the other political parties and detractors, we cannot imagine what marginalized truly means.

Now that we are already in the twilight of our lives are we still to suffer? Will the government not recognize our sacrifices and effort to help free our country from the oppressors?

We pray that the Comelec and Supreme Court will recognize the sacrifice we all have made. —**WITH SEVENTY SIGNATORIES**

Maynilad's forex losses—financial or production costs?

MR. Rafael Alunan III attempted to set to record straight on Ms. Maitet Diokno-Pascual's supposed misleading and ill-informed allegations about the efforts of Maynilad Water Services Inc. to recover from consumers by way of staggered price increases its huge foreign exchange losses (PDI, 9/18/01). However, his exposition was incomplete because it did not touch on a very crucial point, that is, whether the forex losses are in the nature of financing cost or production cost. The nature of the forex losses will determine the propriety of passing these on to consumers.

The forex losses will be classified as financing costs if these are incurred on foreign loans used to set up the business or finance capital expenditures, like capacity expansion. Financing cost is not validly recoverable from consumers and, as far as I know the Energy Regulatory Board and its forerunner the Oil Industry Commission never included it in its approved price increases granted to oil companies. The reason is that it is avoidable and consumers should not suffer from faulty investment-financing decisions of the providers of goods and services. They could have avoided forex losses by opting for equity infusion instead of contracting foreign loans in financing business, by inviting other partners into the consortium and/or going to initial public offering until the needed capitalization is attained. If they opted for foreign loans, they can still minimize forex losses through hedging mechanisms presented in textbooks and employed by knowledgeable corporations, like First Pacific's Thai affiliate which fully hedged shortly before the outbreak of the Asian crisis upon seeing ominous signs in the economy, as cited by Mr. Manuel V. Pangilinan in an interview published in the INQUIRER on June 15, 1998. That the financing cost is not properly recoverable from customers may also be discerned from the fact that we do not see the water company operating in the East Zone (the Manila Water Co.) as having the same magnitude of forex losses that plagues Maynilad. Why then should the consumers in the West Zone pay much higher water rate just because they are serviced by Maynilad whose majority stockholders may have opted for undiluted high equity share in an apparently undercapitalized corporation, which relied on huge unhedged foreign loans and failed to protect itself from potential foreign exchange losses?

Forex losses will be considered production cost if these are incurred as cost of imported raw materials of locally manufactured products, like gasoline derived from imported crude of oil, or if these are incurred on imported or impost-dependent products used in production, such as industrial fuel oil and diesel used to fuel power plants that generate electricity. As it is unavoidable, this type of forex losses is allowed to be recovered, as is being done through foreign currency adjustment on monthly electric power bills and increases from time to time in prices of petroleum products.—**MARCELO L. TECSON, 70 Regalado Ave., corner Bronx Street, Quezon City**

Unhappy with coverage

WE in Plunder Watch would like to point out several errors and omissions in the INQUIRER's story titled "Plunder law on trial at SC" (9/19/01).

First, it was Plunder Watch and cause-oriented groups under Bagong Alyansang Makabayan that led around 80 placard-bearing citizens in a lightning rally that penetrated the police cordon just outside the Supreme Court premises along Padre Faura.

In the news article, nothing was mentioned about our warning that "if the court declares the plunder law unconstitutional, Estrada walks away a free man" and that such a tragic event will have tremendous impact on the moral and political underpinnings of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration.

No mention was made of the over-eager dispersal operations by the police or about the political message that we wanted to put across.

Secondly, the INQUIRER had the wrong caption for the photograph accompanying the story. In fact, the student wearing a long-sleeved shirt fell unconscious minutes after the photo was taken due to the police dispersal operations.

Lastly, the INQUIRER reporter could not have missed the thousands of pro-Estrada supporters from Cavite, Valenzuela and Caloocan City who were bused in and fed packed lunches. It was their big rally that choked Padre Faura, between Orosa Street and Taft Avenue and compelled anti-riot policemen to clog the streets and traffic low in the area.

This pro-Estrada rally is an important aspect of yesterday's events that would have proven the continuing capacity of the Estrada camp to use their resources to foment "manufactured" protest actions, a matter that would have been prevented had the government fought harder to freeze all the ill-gotten wealth of the ousted president and his cronies.—**DR. CAROLINA PAGADUAN ARAULLO, convenor, Plunder Watch, 23 Maamo St., Sikatuna Village, QC**

Not the enemy

MUSLIMS should not be object of enmity. They don't deserve discrimination and antagonism. Only terrorists who have no respect to human life, who resort to terrorism and uncivilized warfare should be considered enemies.

It is worth mentioning the NPA cause vis-a-vis the madness of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The ASG harasses society, murders innocent people, makes kidnapping a lucrative trade and slaughters their victims just to get attention.

They have been disowned by their fellow Muslims and condemned worldwide for their criminal acts. The jihad they called was totally ignored.

Aside from rebel tax, the NPA doesn't disturb innocent people, particularly the poor, and even won the hearts of many victims of social injustice.

Terrorists are not necessarily Muslim or Christian. In fact they don't belong to the human race. They can only be described as plain beasts.

Undoubtedly, the jihad called by the Taliban will fail the way the Filipino Muslims ignored the jihad called by the Abu Sayyaf at the height of their criminal adventures.

They are the enemies of the world. Christians and Muslims, who live in harmony and peace, now join hands in the war against terrorism.

Even the Afghan government has decided to send 15,000 troops to fight fellow Afghans, the Taliban, who cuddle Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of terrorist attacks.—**JOE C. MARQUEZ, Daangbatang, Moonwalk, Parañaque City**

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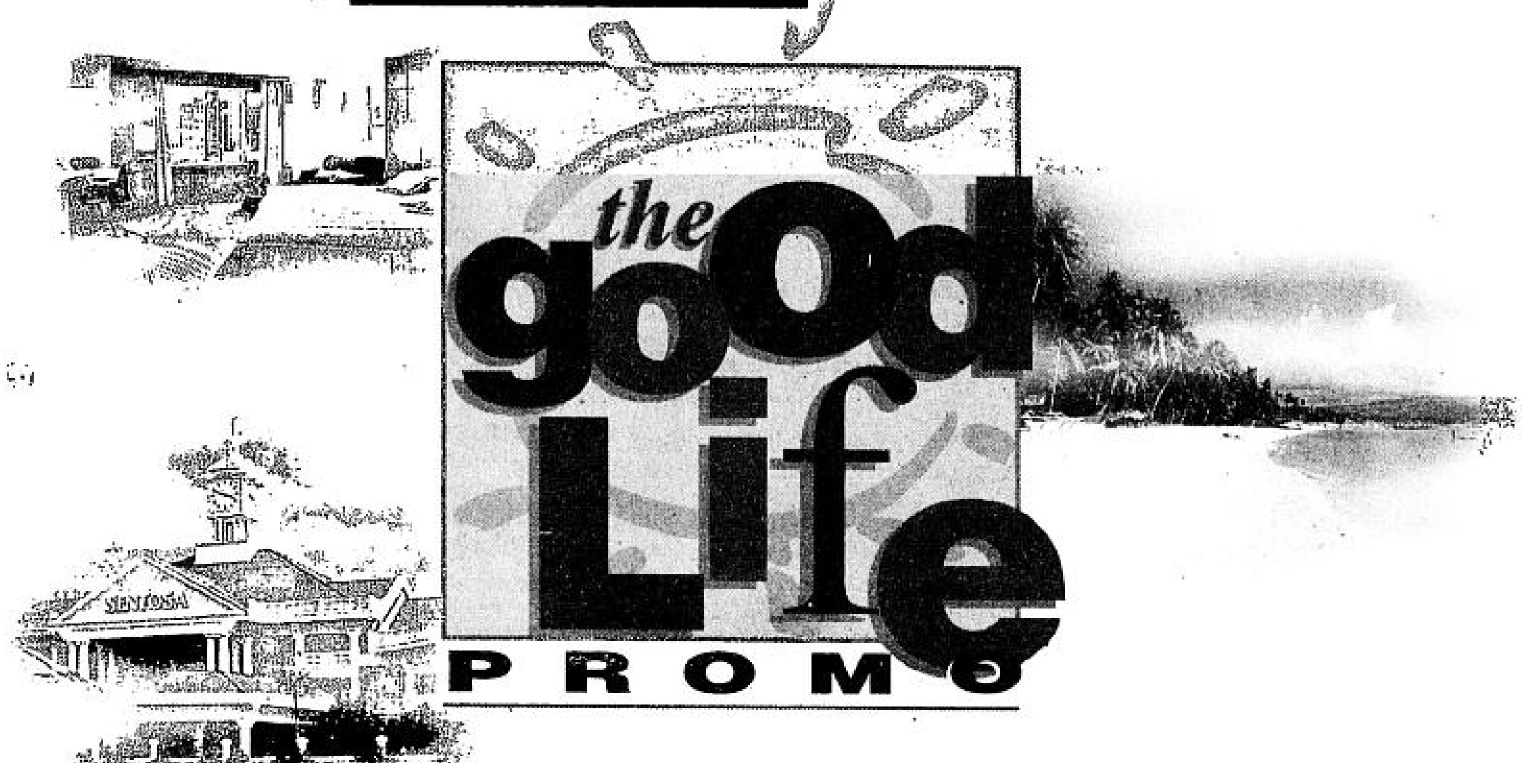

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1st Prize—2001 Opel Astra Notchback (MT)
2nd Prize—3 days/ 2 nights in Singapore for 2 and S$1,000 cash
3rd Prize—Two (2) nights at Makati Shangri-La and P 5,000 cash

Raffle Draw Date: November 5, 2001 (cut-off date for ADB computation is on October 31, 2001)

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3 Cut-off date for ADB computation is every month-end.
4 Winners will be determined through a computerized draw. The computer shall generate the account number to be included in the raffle based on the points earned.
5 The account number will serve as the raffle number. The number of points earned from each account will be equivalent to the number of times the account number will be generated for the raffle.
6 An account can only win once on the same raffle date. In case an account is drawn more than once, the account holder is entitled to claim the prize of higher value.
7 Winners shall be informed through registered mail and through a one-time newspaper ad of national circulation.
8 All accounts named or affixed to Keppel Bank, its employees, advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the raffle.
9 The redemption period for the prizes is within sixty (60) days from notification. The trip prizes can be availed within sixty (60) days from the date the winner claimed the prize. Failure to redeem within this period shall mean forfeiture of the prize with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
10 Travel prizes are subject to confirmation by the official travel agency. Allow two (2) weeks notification before date of travel for airline booking and hotel reservations. All travel document expenses will be shouldered by the winner.
11 All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
12 In case of complaints, the decision of Keppel Bank, along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall be deemed final.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1200 Series of 2001

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

米国テロ被害者追悼・お見舞いの会
Ceremony for All Victims of Terrorist Attacks in U.S.

PARTICIPANTS to the Japanese government-sponsored memorial service for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on the US offer prayers in front of the main altar in Tokyo Sept. 23. More than 3,000 people, including Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, attended the one-hour ceremony. AP

US warns terrorists may attack again this week

TOKYO—The United States has warned its allies of a possible second round of attacks by the end of this week following the deadly recent strikes against New York and Washington, Jiji news agency quoted Japanese government sources as saying.

The next round of attacks, if really launched, would be on an even greater scale than those on Sept. 11, which killed more than 6,000 people, according to information provided to Japan by the United States, Jiji said.

The news agency quoted the sources as saying on Saturday that the "means of terrorism" would be "more cruel and shocking" than in the Sept. 11 carnage, when hijackers flew airliners into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington.

The targets of the possible attacks were unknown but possibilities included members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) and Pakistan, Jiji said.

The government sources said attacks on Japan could not be ruled out since Tokyo has expressed support for US retaliation against the Sept. 11 strikes.

The United States has judged that a second round of attacks, if carried out, is likely by the end of this week at the latest, the sources said.

Japan's public security authorities have gone on heightened alert since receiving the information from the United States.

Washington suspects that a group led by fugitive Saudi-born millionaire Osama bin Laden has been contemplating attacks using biological and chemical weapons, such as sarin nerve gas, for years, according to the sources.

The United States has information that the group has already acquired small airplanes to spray bacteria causing smallpox or anthrax from the air, Jiji quoted the sources as saying.

Time magazine reported on Saturday that investigators had found a crop-dusting manual during a search for those responsible for the attacks on New York and Washington, triggering concern that crop-dusting planes might be used for chemical or biological assaults.

The FBI in Washington said it had not seen the report and had no comment on it. *Reuters*

No sign Iraq involved in attacks—Israel

JERUSALEM—The chief of Israeli military intelligence said in an interview published on Sunday he saw no signs that Iraq was involved in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

"I don't see a direct link between Iraq and the hijackings and terror attacks in the United States," Major-General Amos Malka, concurring with US assessments, told Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper.

"I know many people are wondering whether this kind of attack could be carried out without the help of a country and they immediately point at Iraq or Iran," Malka said.

"But as far as intelligence is concerned, I cannot point at the moment to a connection. There is no Iraqi angle or infrastructure that we can point to at this stage."

Last week, a US intelligence office, asked how strong the evidence was that Iraq was behind the attacks against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, said: "Not very, at this time. We're still looking—but not very."

The United States has named Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi-born dissident who allegedly operates a network of Islamic militants from exile in Afghanistan, the prime suspect in the attacks and has said he is wanted "dead or alive."

In the past week, Israelis have been speculating that Washington might attack Iraq as part of its declared war against global terrorism and that Baghdad would fire Scud missiles at Israel as it did in the 1991 Gulf War.

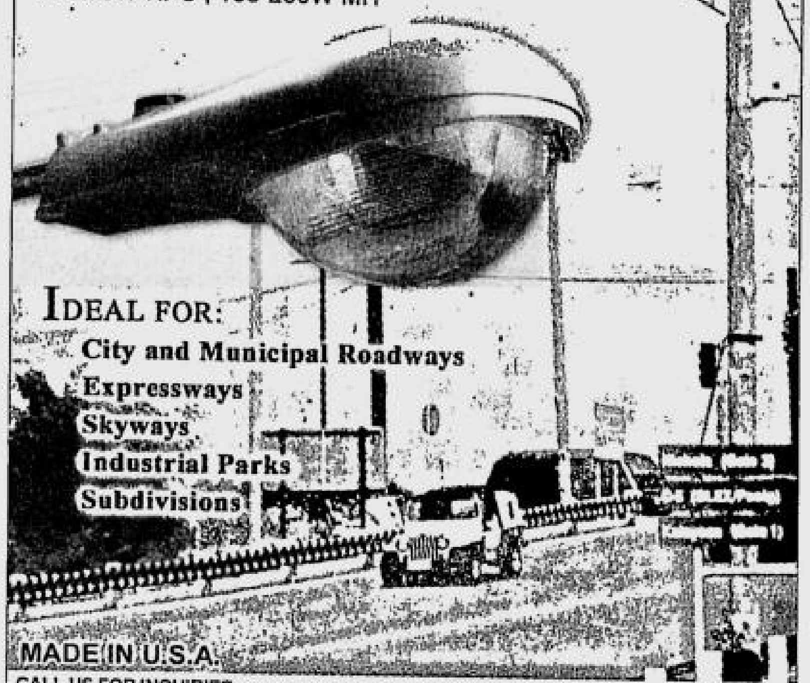
The Israeli army reported over the past days an increase in demand at gas mask distribution centers in operation since the 1991 conflict. Israeli military planners feared at the time Iraq would launch Scuds with chemical or biological warheads.

In the interview, Malka said there was no reason for Israelis to panic "and run to refresh their gas mask kits."

He forecast that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would target Israel only as a last resort and would be wary of exposing now "what he has tried to hide for the past 10 years," a reference to Scud missiles and launchers.

"But if he feels that the noose is tightening around his neck, he might take steps that would put us in the picture," Malka said.

The intelligence chief said US attempts to enlist Muslim and Arab countries into an anti-terror coalition meant that Israel would not be invited "to be at the front." *Reuters*



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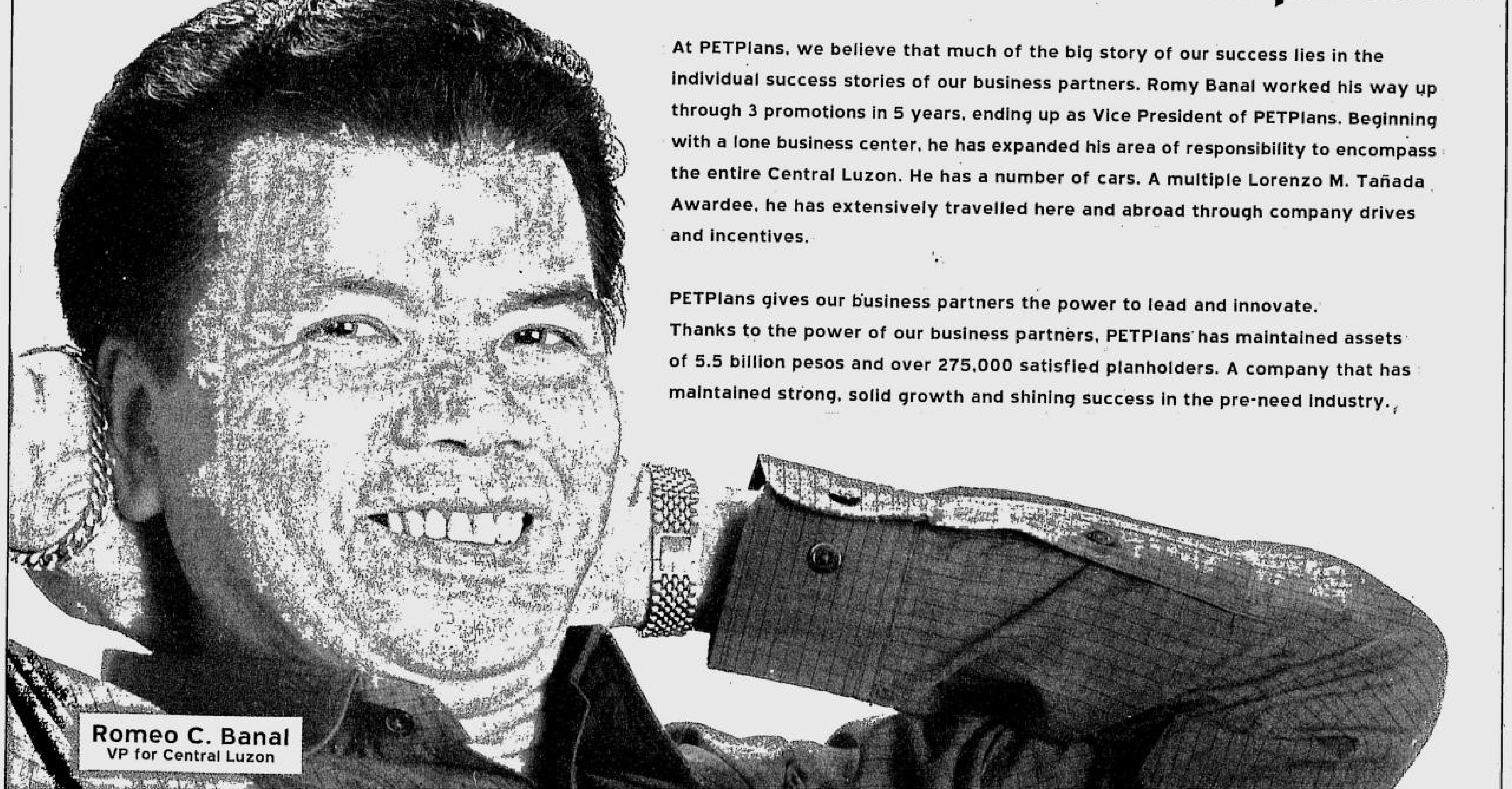

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Phone diplomacy: Pakistan, India move to ease tensions

ISLAMABAD—The foreign ministers of Pakistan and India spoke by telephone Saturday in a bid to ease tensions that rose in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the Uinted States, Pakistan foreign ministry spokesperson Riaz Mohammad Khan said.

In the first direct high-level contact between the South Asian rivals since a leadership summit in July ended in deadlock, Pakistani Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar held a detailed discussion with his Indian counterpart Jaswant Singh, Khan said.

Sattar informed Singh that Pakistan was ready to "fully cooperate" with the world community in combating terrorism, and voiced disappointment at the "barrage of propaganda" emanating from New Delhi.

Singh, in turn, told Sattar that India "has no intention to add to the current complexity being faced by the government and people of Pakistan," Indian foreign ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao said in New Delhi.

India and Pakistan have been exchanging barbed statements ever since the United States began assembling an international coalition against terrorism following the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

In a televised address to the nation last week, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf had warned India to "lay off," accusing New Delhi of seeking to have Pakistan labeled a terrorist state and damage the country's strategic interests.

In an interview with the Times of India two days later, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee responded that Musharraf's concern was not with terrorism but with sponsoring the long-running armed Muslim insurgency in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"How can he be concerned about terrorism? He has promoted it," Vajpayee said.

The sniping has arisen out of a mutual suspicion in Islamabad and New Delhi that the other side is attempting to trade support to possible US military strikes against Afghanistan for Washington's favor in their decades old rivalry.

An official Pakistani source, however, said Sattar had also assured Singh that there was "no change" in Pakistan's policy of trying to push forward the dialogue process begun at the Musharraf-Vajpayee summit in Agra in July.

The summit broke down without agreement as both sides failed to surmount their differences on how to handle their territorial dispute over Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence from British rule in 1947, two of them over divided Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training militants in Indian Kashmir, where the Muslim insurgency has claimed at least 35,000 lives since 1989.

Pakistan denies the charge but extends open moral and diplomatic support to what it describes as the Kashmiris struggle for self-determination.

In his briefing to reporters on the foreign ministers' conversation, Pakistani spokesperson Khan said the Kashmiris were themselves "victims of terrorism" sponsored by the Indian state. *AFP*

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France probes cause of blast which killed 29

TOULOUSE, France—Investigators were trying Saturday to determine what caused a massive explosion, which killed at least 29 people and injured 1,170 at a petrochemical plant in the southwestern city of Toulouse.

The blast took place Friday in a storage facility for highly explosive, unstable chemical products awaiting recycling, Environment Minister Yves Cochet said.

"The explosion was in a storage building and not a production unit," Cochet said. "There were about 300 tons of ammonium nitrate awaiting recycling."

The chemical was "too explosive, too unstable" to be sold to customers, he added.

Authorities have described the explosion repeatedly as "probably accidental," but investigators said they were not ruling out any possibilities.

The blast devastated not only the factory, which produced mainly chemical fertilizers, but also hundreds of homes, 70 schools and an unknown number of businesses in the surrounding area, local and regional officials said.

The shock wave shattered windows several kilometers away from the scene.

The dead included 22 bodies found at the factory and seven in surrounding neighborhoods, including a 15-year-old student who died at a secondary school.

Most were workers at the AZF chemicals plant, but shoppers at stores adjoining the factory also died.

Of the 1,170 people injured, 650 remained hospitalized on Saturday. Thirty were in critical condition, officials said.

Some 700 firefighters worked through the day on Saturday in hopes of finding more survivors.

"It's only been 36 hours, we can still hold out hope," said Michel Donin, the head of the fire services for the Haute-Garonne region.

He refused to confirm reports that 15 to 20 people were still missing following the blast.

Local organizations and the Greens party meanwhile began to question the location of the plant. It had been built in an uninhabited area during the 1920s, but with the growth of Toulouse, it was soon at the edge of the city. *AFP*

NEWLY crowned Miss America Katie Harman waves ecstatically during the Miss America Pageant at the Atlantic City, N.J., Boardwalk Convention Hall Sept. 22. AP

Defying cynicism, Miss America show goes on

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—A two-hour drive divides "Ground Zero" from Atlantic City, but the plastic pageantry of Miss America seemed to come from a different planet to the unrelenting horror in New York.

Crowds of heavily made-up women with immaculate hair and reams of jewellery thronged the boardwalk of the seamy gambling city on the New Jersey coast before Saturday's live television extravaganza.

They came with tuxedo-clad husbands and small armies of cheerleaders from the 51 states across America to cheer for the beauty queen of their choice, and to safeguard one of the country's schmaltzier institutions.

To the thin ranks of weekend gamblers and bemused holidaymakers playing mini-golf outside the convention center, the whooping crowd may have seemed a little odd gathered under the flags fluttering at half-mast from the building.

But for Andrew Latham, a marketing executive from Seattle who has spent the past 15 years judging and writing about beauty pageants across the country, the riot of sequins, snakeskin and leopardskin was an affirmation of American culture and a defiant message to the terrorists.

"This is an institution, it is as important to us as the Superbowl, hot dogs or apple pie," said Latham, who also edits the Washington State beauty pageant newsletter. "The show must go on."

For many Americans the world changed irrevocably on Sept. 12 when hijacked passenger jets were rammed into the World Trade Center in New York, killing some 6,000 people, and into the Pentagon in Washington.

As the nation went into mourning, the government prepared for war and the financial markets went into a tailspin, the 51 young contestants took a vote to see if they were capable of keeping those taught smiles going through the misery.

They were not convinced, but they voted 34 to 17 to go ahead with the show, albeit shorn of the confetti canons, onstage pyrotechnics and the traditional Oscar-style opening complete with limousines, red carpet and paparazzi.

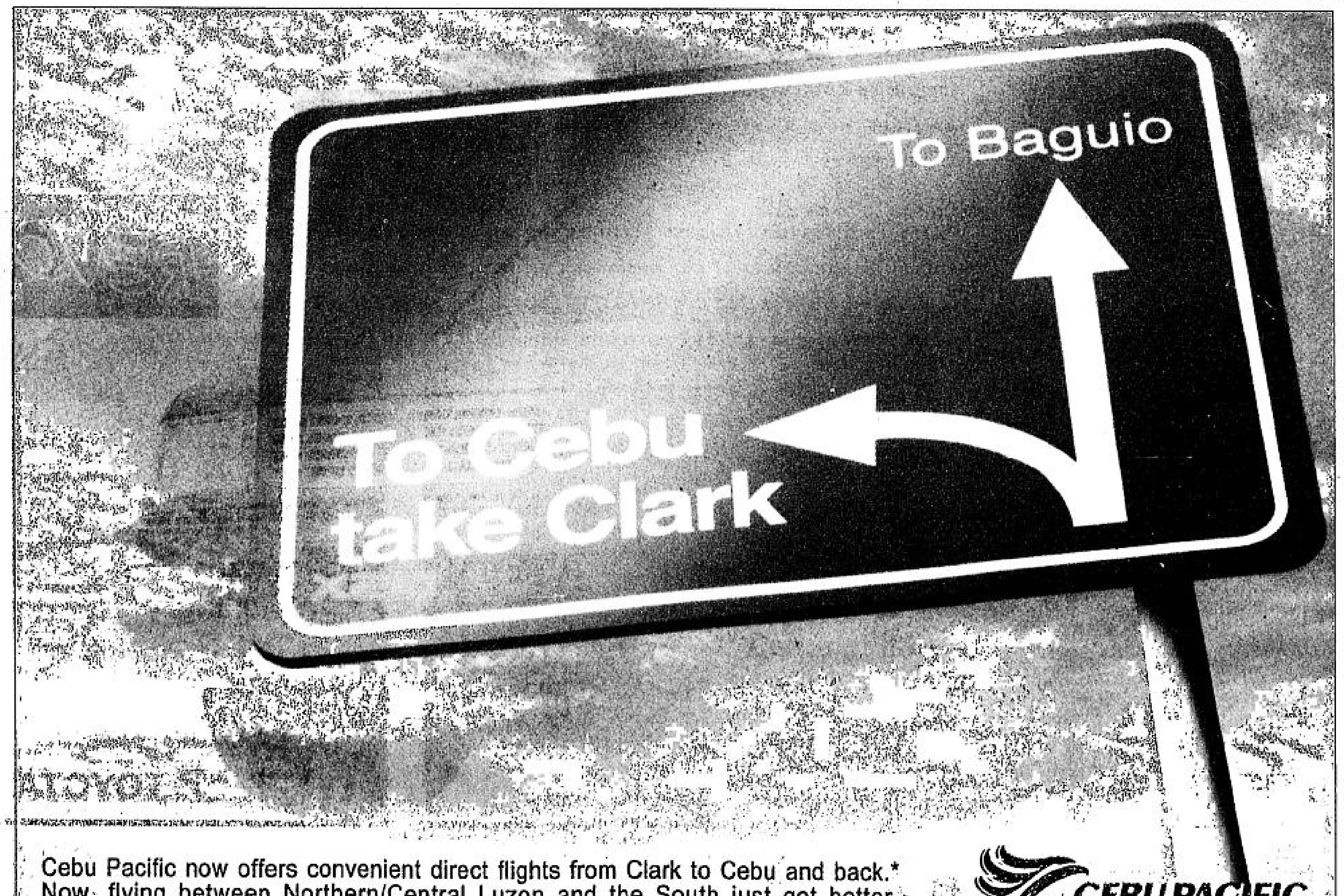
But inside the arena the restraint disappeared as the compeer, tapdancing sitcom star Tony Danza, told the crowd before going on air the pageant was a celebration of Americana and a tribute to the victims of last week's attacks.

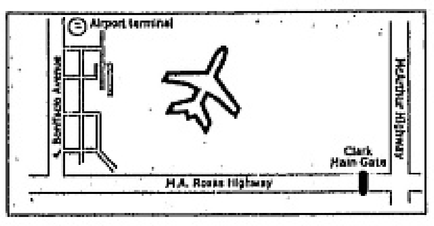
"It is a tribute to the qualities we cherish. We don't carry on to make light of what happened, we carry on to make more of it," he said.

And the crowds roared, screamed and whistled as the 51 beauty queens took the stage in gleaming white gowns. The little American flags placed neatly on every seat were quickly replaced by the partisan placards in support of different contestants.

There were squeals for the local favorite Miss New Jersey, cheerful boos for the rival neighbor Miss New Hampshire and a standing ovation for the emotional favorite Miss New York, Andrea Plummer.

The competition was eventually won by the suitably blue-eyed and blonde-haired Katie Harman, Miss Oregon. *AFP*





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ISAAC Stern playing his violin in his New York studio in this January 1997 file photo. Stern is credited with saving the Carnegie Hall from the wrecking ball. AP

Master violinist Isaac Stern, 81

NEW YORK—Isaac Stern, the master violinist who saved Carnegie Hall from the wrecking ball, died Saturday. He was 81.

Stern was one of the last great violinists of his generation and helped advance the careers of generations of musicians who followed, including Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman and Yo-Yo Ma.

Stern died of heart failure at New York Weill Cornell Medical Center, said Ann Diebold, spokeswoman for Carnegie Hall. He had suffered from heart disease for several years and had been in and out of the hospital for the past six weeks, said Carnegie Hall Chairman Sandy Weill.

"Isaac was far more than a musician. He was a person who was outstanding in everything, whether thinking about politics, or business, or as a humanitarian," Weill said.

Five-foot-6 (1.67 centimeters), rotund and with pudgy, dimpled hands, Stern commanded a rich tone and steady rhythm from his 18th century Guarneri. With his dynamo energy and fluid bow strokes, he was equally at home with the mathematical contortions of Bach, the fury of Beethoven, the syncopations of Brahms and the convulsions of 20th century composers.

Stern was one of the most recorded classical musicians in history, making well over 100 recordings.

A supporter of Israel, tireless concertizer, teacher and raconteur, Stern played well over 175 performances by the late 1990s at Carnegie Hall, America's musical temple renowned for its acoustics.

The hall was built by industrialist Andrew Carnegie and opened in 1891 with a concert conducted in part by Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky.

"Carnegie was, is and will not be only a building. It's an idea. It's a mythology, a necessary mythology about music," Stern said in a 1997 interview with CNN's Larry King. *AP*

China built 24 new ships for S. China Sea–Jane's

BEIJING—China has finished building 20-24 navy ships in a new class it will use to bolster its patrols of the South China Sea, including around the disputed Spratly Islands, Jane's Defense Weekly said.

The patrol vessels, set for "imminent operational deployment," bore the markings of China's customs administration but would be staffed by People's Liberation Army naval personnel, Jane's said in a report published late last week.

"The customs markings are intended to downplay the expansion of naval patrol presence and protect the navy in the event of any incidents," it quoted a source as saying.

China claims ownership of the Spratly Islands and a number of other potentially oil-rich islets in the South China Sea also claimed wholly or in part by Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

The countries have discussed the claims openly and were considering a code of conduct for the South China Sea, but many have secretly sent patrol boats and people to try to occupy some of the islands.

One of the missions of the boats, about 100 meters long and fitted with a twin main gun of about 30 mm, would be to protect civilian fishing trawlers, the Jane's report said.

The Philippines has repeatedly raised concerns with Beijing over what Manila says are incursions of Chinese naval and fishing vessels in its territorial waters.

Jane's said the new boats were substantially larger than others used by the customs service.

"They represent a major investment," it quoted a source as saying, adding the most distinctive feature of the patrol craft was a ramp at the stern suitable to handle two high-speed interceptor boats. *Reuters*

Kuwait: Emir's health is good

KUWAIT CITY—Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah's condition is "nothing to worry about," the emirate's health minister said in remarks published Sunday.

"The emir's health is good, his condition is stable and there is nothing to worry about," Mohammad al-Jarallah said, quoted by Al-Qabas newspaper.

An official statement said Friday that Sheikh Jaber, 73, had suffered a "limited" brain hemorrhage.

"The results of his CAT scan showed that there were no negative effects caused by the hemorrhage. We're very satisfied with the results," said Jarallah, who is currently in London with the emir.

Treatment would only be administered after full test results, said Jarallah, himself an oncologist.

Sheikh Jaber was whisked to London by private plane late Friday and then on to Cromwell Hospital.

Al-Anba newspaper quoted Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah saying: "Be sure that the father of all Kuwaitis is fine and in good health."

Al-Watan reported that the emir was "smiling and talking to his doctors and visitors" in hospital, and that his health was "stable and improving."

The English-language Arab Times ran the headline: "Emir's health 'very reassuring,'" and reported that "a preliminary diagnosis indicated the emir suffered a minor brain hemorrhage not requiring surgical intervention."

A host of Kuwaiti officials have visited the emir in hospital while many foreign leaders have sent telegrams enquiring about his health and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Political personalities in Kuwait published advertisements in newspapers on Sunday wishing the emir well. *AFP*

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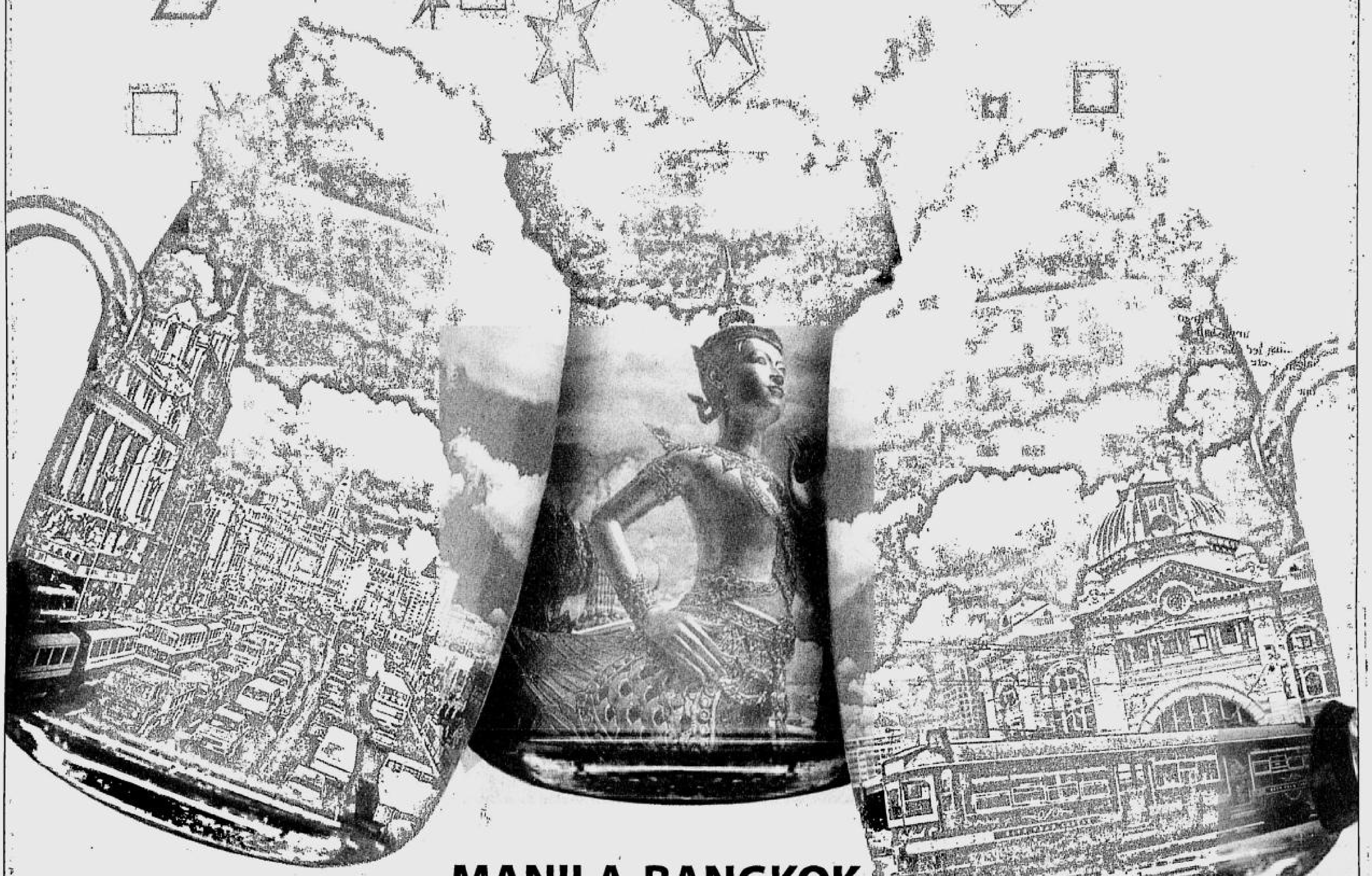

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Mayor, sons ordered held for ambush

PAGADIAN CITY—A local court here has issued arrest warrants against a town mayor, his two sons and six bodyguards in connection with the May 12 ambush of six Lakas-NUCD supporters in Zamboanga del Sur.

Lawyer Friolo Icao, district chief of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), said the warrants of arrest for frustrated murder and attempted murder have been issued against Pitogo town Mayor Zosimo Garban (NPC), his sons Richard and Alwen, and his alleged bodyguards Benjo Suarin, Romy Dumaog, Edwin Dumaog, Loloy Egot, Carding Abejay and a certain Badong.

As of Friday, Mayor Garban was able to post bail. The others remained at large, Icao said.

For frustrated murder, the court placed the bail bond at P200,000 for each suspect. A P120,000 bail bond was set for the attempted murder case.

An 11-year-old boy identified Garban as the one who allegedly led the armed group in the May 12 ambush.

The NBI alleged that Garban's group waited for six Lakas-NUCD supporters to pass by the road in Punta Flecha in Pitogo town to distribute sample ballots.

The victims, led by a certain Datu Salem, were aboard four motorcycles when ambushed.

No one was killed in the ambush, but Salem and his five companions were injured.

Icao said Garban was allegedly the first to fire his Armalite rifle, followed by his two sons and bodyguards.

The 11-year-old witness claimed he was at the ambush site when the attack happened. *Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Managers urge tax holidays

Personnel management group's alternative to wage hikes

BAGUIO CITY—The Personnel Management Association of the Philippines said the government should consider giving tax holidays to workers instead of granting them a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

Ernesto Espinosa, PMAP Luzon vice president, said based on their study of 2,000 PMAP members, most companies favor the granting of tax holidays to minimum wage employees.

Espinosa said their employees are paid minimum wages.

Rene Gener, former PMAP president, said granting the wage increase will result in massive retrenchment.

"Even before the wage increase is granted, many business establishments are not paying their workers the minimum wage," he said.

The PMAP also recommended that businessmen share profits with workers instead of increasing wages. This will boost the morale of workers and make them more involved in their jobs, the PMAP said.

"We should think of a permanent solution . . . (to) create wealth and share wealth," said Gerry Plana, PMAP executive director.

The PMAP will hold its convention on Oct. 10-13 at the Baguio Country Club. The convention will focus on educating workers.

Plana said the unemployment rate in the country is very high and yet there are many companies looking for workers.

"In the past, companies will hire you and then train you. But now companies are looking for trained workers. Their philosophy now is, 'I'm not hiring you to train you. I am hiring you because of your training,'" Plana said.

In Baguio, according to the city planning office, the labor force has increased but the opportunities are just not there.

For this year, there are 161,000 people listed as workers of the city government but only 54 percent of them are employed. In 1995, 63 percent of the labor force was actually employed. *Frank Cimatu with a report from Thet Mesias and Allan Macatuno, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Moro, Christian women unity urged

DAVAO CITY—Women's groups here urged greater unity among Moro and Christian women as they chided the move of the government to allow American troops full access to Philippine territory.

The militant Gabriela described the government plan as "first-class prostitution" and downright servility.

Lyda Canson, chair of the local Gabriela chapter, said that President Macapagal-Arroyo, in declaring support for the US, "has signaled the homegrown genocide of innocent young Filipino soldiers and the entire Filipino people."

"We wholly condemn the President's proposal to allow American troops full access to virtually the entire Philippine territory as staging ground for all-out war against countries allegedly coddling culprits of the horrible suicide attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon," said Gabriela-Mindanao in a statement.

The move will breed militarism and give rise to more abuses against Filipino women and children who comprise at least 80 percent of the civilian populace, Canson said.

While the organization condemned the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Canson said the government's plan to volunteer resources for the US-led global coalition in eliminating the brains of the attacks was ill advised.

Canson added that the President's pro-war stance was rousing a broad anti-Muslim hysteria and racism.

Gabriela called on all Muslims and Christians to pursue all possible peace efforts and initiatives, and to fight militarism. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

De Oro oil depots guarded

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Oil depots of the three giant companies here have tightened their security measures after the terrorist attacks on the United States Sept. 11.

Officials of Caltex, Shell and Petron told the INQUIRER that they have "tripled" their security measures against any threat of terrorism.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Caisip, regional police chief, said the PNP's Regional Mobile Group here has been tasked to patrol the oil depots.

Petron Depot Manager Louie Patricio said they have been implementing these security measures even before the US terror attacks.

"We are very strict now in our security measures after the attacks in the US," he said.

Even depot personnel have to undergo strict inspection before they are allowed entry.

Shell depot manager Emerito Operario said they have set up emergency response procedures for any attacks. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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COURT ORDER

Claimants leave Silliman U lot

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—About 50 members of a group called Exodus on Friday left peacefully the Silliman University Archery Range, which they had been occupying for 13 days, in compliance with a court order.

Judge Alvin Tan of the Regional Trial Court issued a three-day temporary restraining order to prevent any serious damage or injury to the property.

The TRO will lapse today when the court begins hearing the university's petition for the issuance of a preliminary injunction against the Exodus members.

Hansel Anito, lawyer of the Exodus members, said his clients left the area to comply with the court order.

But, he said, he planned to push through with the surveying of Lot No. 6489-B, which is said to be the archery range.

Anito maintained that the archery range is not part of Lot No. 6489-B, but of Lot No. 6301.

"(Lot No.) 6489-B is more than 10 hectares. If that were the archery range, that would be the biggest archery range in the world," he said.

Anito said Lot 6301, which covers the archery range, is registered in the name of Eugenia Ceriales.

He alleged that the title to Lot 6489-B, which is in the name of Silliman University, was fake and was invalidated by the court years ago.

Court records showed that there are two pending cases involving this particular lot.

One is a petition for institution of heirs and administration of the estate of Eugenia Ceriales. Simplicio Calijan, who claims to be a direct descendant of Eugenia, filed it on Oct. 2, 2000.

Calijan asked the court to declare him the property's administrator and to name him the direct heir and his siblings as his co-heirs.

He claimed that lot 6301, covered by TCT 610, had listed the three sisters Hermenigilda Ceriales as the original owners—Eugenia and Mercedes.

While Mercedes and Hermenigilda had sold their shares, he said, there was nothing to show on Eugenia's share.

Calijan produced a tax declaration dated Feb. 13, 1998 issued by the city assessor of Dumaguete, showing that Lot 6301 is still in the name of the Ceriales sisters. Based on the document, the lot's prevailing market value was P225,660.

The other pending case is a cadastral pleading over lot 6301 filed by the university, spouses Ibarra and Alpha Jaculbe and the Lupisan family. The three parties claimed ownership of the lot.

The Silliman University and the Jaculbe and Lupisan families said Lot 6301 was originally registered to the Ceriales sisters.

Mercedes sold her share to Tecla Balasabas Abella on Jan. 26, 1928. Eugenia's share was inherited by her only child, Rosario, who sold it to Ignacio Calijan on Oct. 5, 1924.

Ignacio then sold the lot to Abella, giving her two-thirds of Lot 6301.

The remaining one-third of the lot belonged to Hermenigilda and this was later sold to the Silliman University as shown by a deed of sale dated Feb. 9, 1950.

Abella and the Silliman then subdivided the land—6301-A to Silliman and 6301-B to the other claimants.

Dagupan COA probe uncovers ₱1M in cell cards

DAGUPAN CITY—A million pesos worth of cell cards allegedly bought by a city councilor and a cash advance of P252,000 allegedly made by a driver from the city treasury have stirred a hornet's nest in the city government.

A Commission on Audit report dated Aug. 8 this year showed that P16 million in cash advances were reportedly withdrawn by the vice mayor, councilors, the city treasurer, a driver, a janitor and other government officials and employees.

Most officials mentioned in the report have denied having withdrawn money from the city treasurer's office, saying their names could have been used by unscrupulous persons in City Hall.

Mayor Benjamin Lim has formed a committee, headed by Teofilo Galang, former National Bureau of Investigation provincial chief, to investigate the reported withdrawals.

Lim said City Treasurer Florentino Flores, who was listed as having withdrawn P186,000 from the city coffers, could only say "sorry."

"(Flores) is liable but we want to give him an opportunity to explain," he said.

He said investigators have two suspects: one works in the treasurer's office and the other in the city council. He withheld their names pending investigation.

The personal cash advances were not covered by vouchers and the COA based its findings on a report of the treasurer's office which listed the names of the officials and employees who allegedly got the money.

Lim said an employee at the treasurer's office could have used the money for lending activities.

When the COA conducted an audit, the treasurer's office made the list to cover up the missing money, he said.

Another government official said the cash advance scheme was widely practiced during the past administration.

"But advancing cash for personal use is illegal," Lim said.

Councilor Ramon Reyna said he was surprised when he received a notice from the COA advising him to "liquidate" P1.6 million in cash advances.

"What's odd is that of the amount, P1 million was used to buy cell cards. What will I do with all those cell cards?" Reyna told a local radio station.

Each councilor is allowed only P2,500 worth of cell cards monthly.

A driver at the treasurer's office was reported to have withdrawn P252,000 in cash advances while a janitor had withdrawn P11,000.

The highest amount of advance listed in the COA report was P2,172,000 allegedly made by former Vice Mayor Teodoro Manaois who lost in the mayoral race. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Biotech rice to be tested in Nueva Ecija, Laguna

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—The country's first biotechnology-derived rice, described as resistant to a major plant disease, will be tested in two trial sites and released soon for commercial use.

This biotech rice, IR72 with Xa-21 gene, was proven in greenhouse inoculation tests to be resistant to nine kinds of bacterial blight.

Researchers of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here conducted the development and greenhouse testing of this biotech rice in cooperation with researchers of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

The field trial, according to Dr. Rhodora Aldemita, one of the PhilRice researchers involved in the project, will provide data on the performance of the biotech rice in the natural environment.

It will also give information if there would be gene transfer in adjacent rice plants within the contained facility.

Sites of the trial will be in the PhilRice Compound in Barangay Maligaya here and in IRRI in Los Baños, Laguna, Aldemita said.

But before the trial could be conducted, it has yet to hurdle the requirements of the National Committee on the Biosafety of the Philippines, a multi-sectoral body coordinated by the Department of Science and Technology that regulates biotechnology-studies in the country.

Three public consultations have been held, and the last is scheduled on Sept. 28.

Bacterial blight, Aldemita said, is one of the major rice diseases dreaded by farmers.

Rice infected with this disease has water-soaked leaves which turn to gray to brown in advance stage, she said.

The best control method for this disease is the use of a resistant variety, she said.

In Davao City recently, party-list representative Satur Ocampo has moved to ban genetically modified organisms (GMOs) including importation and field-testing of the controversial Bt-corn.

Ocampo, a member of the House committee on agriculture, said he has filed a bill seeking to impose a ban on GMOs, but the committee on biosafety is still discussing it.

Non-government groups here vowed to continue their protests if Kibawe, Bukidnon officials do not recall a resolution supporting the field-testing of Bt-corn by seed giant Monsanto. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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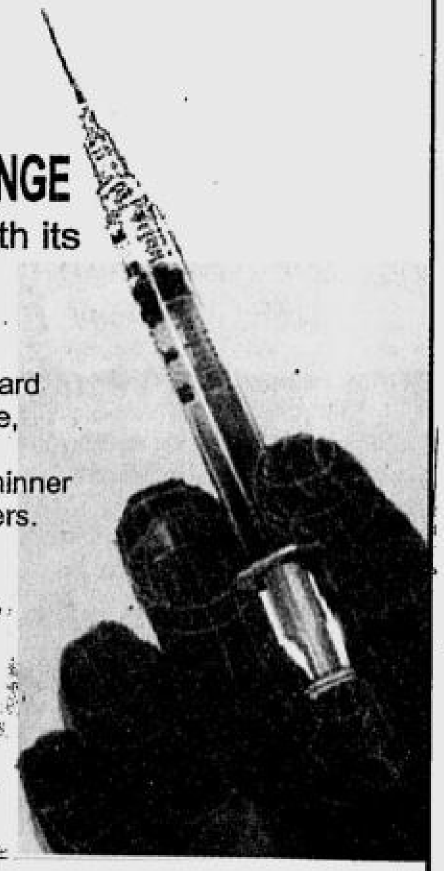

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Prices up in Eastern Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The inflation rate of Eastern Visayas has drastically increased to 7.4 percent in July from 6.6 percent in June and the figure is higher than the 6.8 percent national average.

According to the National Statistics Office (NSO) regional office here, Eastern Visayas ranked fourth among the 16 administrative regions in the country with high inflation rates, with the National Capital Region (8.3 percent), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (8 percent) and Region V (7.8 percent) as the three regions with the highest inflation rates.

The rise in Eastern Visayas' average inflation rate for all items was attributed to the moderate increases in prices of commodities except tobacco and clothes.

The annual rate of price increases of these two commodities dwindled by 0.1 percentage point.

Among the food items, only corn and fruits or vegetables showed a decrease in costs. The highest increase in inflation was noted in fuel, light and water rates.

Southern Leyte, which had an inflation rate of 8.5 percent in June, continued to have the highest inflation rate at 9.4 percent in July.

The annual rate of price increases in Samar was slower compared to the other provinces in the region, posting a 4.7 percent inflation. *Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

BOMB SCARE CHARLIE SACEDA

Fears of terrorist attacks by the bandit group Abu Sayyaf prompts authorities to be on extra alert around Mindanao, making checkpoints such as this in Basilan ordinary sights.

Mindanao regions realigned

COTABATO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued Executive Order 36 realigning the administrative regions in Mindanao.

The order, which was signed by the President and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo on Sept. 19, was, however, silent on the seats of the new regional setup.

Local Government Secretary Jose Lina, whose office has been tasked with "supervis(ing) the ongoing reorganization of administrative regions in Mindanao," said the existing regional centers would remain while the government was holding public consultations on the issue.

"We will play it by ear," he said.

"As of now, (it is the) status quo until we are able to determine the best place (for a regional center)," said Lina, who seemed to have appeased the fears of residents that the regional capital of Central Mindanao would be moved from here to Koronadal City.

Under the new regional setup, Central Mindanao has been renamed Socsargen (South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos) Region.

South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes said a pending bill in Congress declared Koronadal the seat of government of the newly created Socsargen because of its central location.

Socsargen also includes the provinces of North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat, and the cities of Kidapawan, Tacurong, General Santos, Koronadal and Cotabato.

In the same executive order, Western Mindanao (Region 9) has been renamed the Zamboanga Peninsula Region.

Lanao del Norte and Iligan City, which used to be part of Western Mindanao, has joined Northern Mindanao (Region 10).

Southern Mindanao (Region 11) is now named Davao Region with the following composition: Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao City, Digos City, Panabo City, Island Garden City of Samal and Tagum City.

The Caraga setup remains the same, while the new Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is now made up of the provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and the city of Marawi.

Former President Corazon Aquino's Executive Order 429, realigning the geographical composition of Regions 9 and 12, had been repealed as a result of Ms Macapagal's EO 36, Lina said.

EO 429, which was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1993, mandated the transfer of the regional centers of Regions 9 and 12 from Zamboanga to Pagadian and from Cotabato to Koronadal, respectively.

Ms Macapagal, in her speech before participants of the 10th Mindanao Business Conference here, said the regional reorganization was meant to have "easy administrative access" to these areas. *Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds becoming stormy over extreme Northern Luzon and the coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Stormy	HI 27° Lo 21°
Laoag	Stormy	HI 29° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 22°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy.	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/24/01

ROUNDUP

Suspected NPA slain

DAVAO CITY—A suspected New People's Army rebel was killed in an encounter with government troops in Baganga, Davao Oriental on Thursday afternoon. Col. Felipe Berroya, chief of the 701st Infantry Brigade, said the slain rebel was a member of the NPA's Front Committee 15 of the Southern Mindanao Regional Committee led by Renato Languibo alias Bobong. Also wounded were a certain Sgt. Labrado and militiaman Jimmy Donato. He said elements of the 30th Special Forces were patrolling in Sitio Bangkokaan in Barangay Kinablagan, Baganga when they chanced upon the NPA rebels. A 30-minute firefight ensued.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 women held for drugs

DAVAO CITY—Three women were separately arrested by agents of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office for alleged illegal possession of prohibited drugs. Leonida Lazada and her sister Marites were arrested in a raid on their house in Bansalan, Davao del Sur Thursday afternoon. Allegedly taken from the suspects was a sachet with shabu weighing 5 grams and assorted paraphernalia. Rhodalin Mesias, 42, was also arrested on Friday in a buy-bust operation along Artiaga Street in Davao City. Mesias, a resident of Digos City, reportedly delivered three small shabu sachets to an anti-narcotics agent who posed as a buyer. She was previously arrested for drug possession by anti-narcotics agents in October 1998 and was convicted. She was out on probation during her arrest.
Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 nabbed for robbery

ROXAS CITY—Police arrested on Sept. 19 one of the three suspects who robbed the passengers of an L-300 van in Barangay Intongcan in Pontevedra town. Ricky Tumlos, 22, was arrested in Barangay Hipona in Pontevedra. He identified his two other companions in the heist as Rogelio Balana and Roberto Bacuraya, all of Maayon town, Capiz. He also said Roberto Ayuri provided them with a motorcycle that they used in their escape. The suspects earlier escaped with at least P55,000 and $550 in cash when they robbed the 14 passengers of the van owned by Mariano Aquino of Punta Tabuc.
Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Court orders inhibition

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Court of Appeals ordered Judge Ismael Baldado of the Bais City Regional Trial Court to inhibit himself from handling a case against former Bindoy Mayor Jeceeju Mana-ay, a partymate of former Negros Oriental Rep. Jerome Paras as he might be biased in favor of the accused. The CA said Paras had a hand in Baldado's appointment as a judge. It said the accusation that the judge was beholden to Paras was not disputed or was it denied that Mana-ay's was Paras' political leader. Mana-ay and three others are facing robbery with violence charges for taking the camera of Demetrio Duran, a supporter of his political opponent in the 1995 elections. Duran took a picture of Mana-ay in a polling center. Duran claimed Mana-ay slapped him and got his camera.
Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Truck crash kills 2

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Two women were killed while four others were hurt Thursday when a truck fell into a 50-meter ravine in Atok town. Police identified the fatalities as Dominga Ancheta, 40, of San Juan, La Union, and Pacita Lluveras of San Fernando City. The Baguio-bound Isuzu Elf truck was negotiating a stretch of the Km 57 of the Halsema Highway in Sitio Sayangan when another vehicle bumped it off the road.
Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Armed men rob passengers

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Seven armed men robbed the passengers of a bus along the Isabela portion of the San Jose City-Cagayan highway on Thursday night, the second highway robbery along that highway in a week. Police said the suspects boarded a Cagayan-bound Baliuag Bus in San Jose City, and later announced a holdup. Police said one of the suspects took the wheels from the driver while his companions took the conductor's and passengers' personal belongings, jewelry, cash and cellular phones worth more than P500,000.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tricycle driver killed

PAOMBONG, Bulacan—A leader of a tricycle drivers' association here was killed Wednesday when a jeepney ran over him in Barangay Sto. Niño. Police said Jose Hermie Sese, president of the Catmon-Crossing Tricycle Drivers and Operators Group, was driving his tricycle when a jeepney plying the Malolos route hit his vehicle. Witnesses said Sese was thrown off his tricycle but the jeepney driver, instead of bringing Sese to a hospital, intentionally ran over him and ensured that he was dead. The driver fled.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Farmer held for guns

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Police arrested a farmer in Camalaniugan, Cagayan, after a raid on his house last week yielded several guns, grenades and bullets. Armed with a search warrant, a police team found three .38 cal. revolvers, two hand grenades, eight magazines for an Armalite rifle, an air gun and several gun parts from the house of Roger Salvador in Barangay Catotoran in Camalaniugan.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Clinton: I tried to kill Bin Laden

(From page A1)

siles struck.

Clinton, who left office in January after eight years in power, said he felt US President George W. Bush was handling the crisis provoked by the Sept. 11 terror raids on New York, Washington and Pennsylvania "in a strong way."

Disappearing act

The New York Times reported yesterday that accounts out of Afghanistan and from newspapers in Pakistan all appear to agree that Bin Laden "disappeared from his most common hideouts around Kandahar, in southern Afghanistan, and Kabul sometime after" the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Times summarized a report in the Islamabad-based newspaper The Dawn, which "said earlier this week that Bin Laden had last been seen at one of his training camps outside Kabul, at a village called Chahar-i-Ansari, last Sunday."

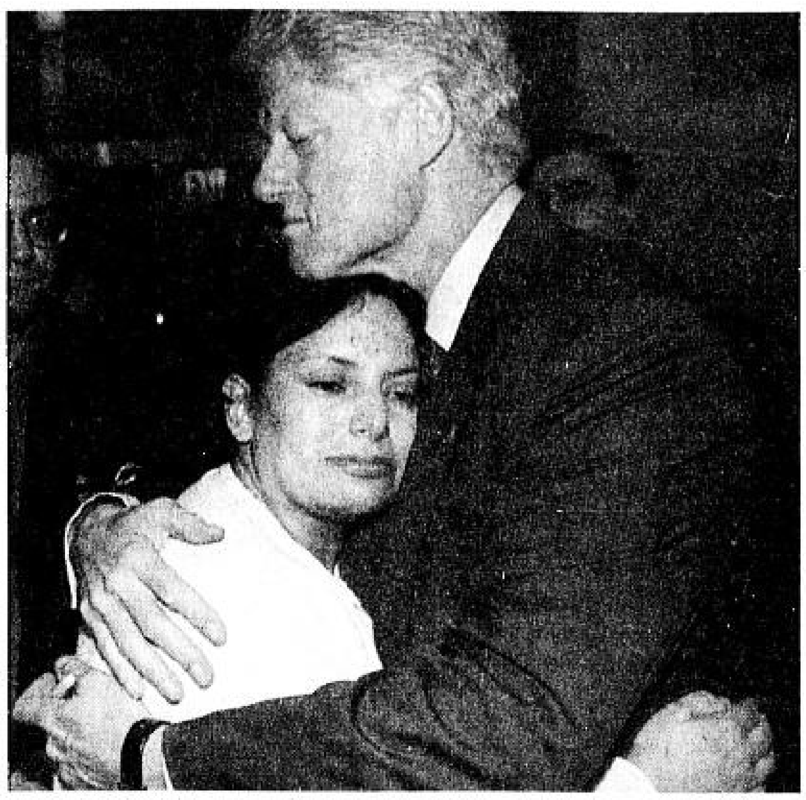
According to the Dawn, in that village, Bin Laden took an oath of allegiance from 500 Arab fighters "sworn to die for their cause," then rode out of the camp on horseback.

The Dawn quoted a source in Kabul as saying: "They left behind the vehicles, and left on horses. He must have gone to some place which is not motorable."

The Times also reported speculation that Bin Laden "might possibly try to make his way to any one of a dozen Muslim countries and regions, including . . . Chechnya or Dagestan in southern Russia, western China, Lebanon or even Paraguay."

The report said Yemen, the homeland of Bin Laden's father, was also bound to be closely watched by American forces pursuing the Saudi-born terrorist.

The Times said that after al-Qaida bombed the two American embassies in east Africa in 1998, Bin Laden "told an interviewer that he would like to live in Yemen, where, he said, he could hide in the mountains and deserts and 'breathe the air.'"



FORMER President Bill Clinton comforts Sonia Bermudez, a native of Colombia, while visiting a local union headquarters in New York. Bermudez lost her husband Jorge in last week's terrorist attack against the World Trade Center.

REUTERS

Network of caves

The elusive terrorist leader has numerous possibilities for hideouts in his training camps scattered throughout Afghanistan. Some were built with American help.

Among the most formidable stronghold is a network of caves that weave through the towering mountains of eastern Kunar province.

A Taliban official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, claimed Bin Laden maintains a sophisticated communications system in the area.

Some of Bin Laden's hideouts are familiar to US military planners. After the 1998 embassy bombings, the United States fired 70 Tomahawk cruise missiles into two camps known as Al Badr I and Al Badr II near Khost in eastern Paktia province.

A third Bin Laden camp located near the Al Badr strongholds was the headquarters of a Taliban leader, Jalaludddin Haqqani, when he fought Soviet invaders during the Afghan war of the 1980s.

Pakistani intelligence officials say the hideouts near Khost were financed by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) when the United States was secretly backing Afghan fighters against the Soviets.

Wartime headquarters

Both the United States and the Russians presumably have detailed information about some of the camps because they are located near strongholds of Afghan resistance fighters who battled Soviet forces years ago.

One of them—Tora Bora in Nangarhar province—was the wartime headquarters of a commander known as "Engineer Mahmood," who invited Bin Laden to come to Afghanistan in 1996.

Four months after Bin Laden arrived, Engineer Mahmood was killed in an ambush staged by rivals in his Shinwari tribe. Bin Laden reportedly fought alongside Mahmood against the Soviets.

Many of the training sites were selected for their mountainous locations, making them difficult to reach for military forces, even lightly armed and highly mobile elite troops.

Not so impregnable

However, not all of Bin Laden's camps are quite so impregnable.

In Nangarhar province, some 20 kilometers south of Jalalabad, Bin Laden purportedly maintains a camp at Farmada. It is on a farm owned by Yunus Khalis, another former resistance fighter who was bankrolled by the United States in the Afghan war.

Another camp, Darunta, located west of Jalalabad, is tucked into the hillside, its entrance obscured by trees. In the nearby public market, residents say Arabs were always seen—until the Sept. 11 attacks. None have been seen there since.

In Logar province, in central Afghanistan, a complex of 400 houses was built just last month for Arab militants, who reportedly fight alongside Taliban soldiers on the front lines in northern Afghanistan, according to western military sources.

Within days of the attacks in the United States, dozens of Arabs left the capital of Kabul apparently headed toward Logar province.

Targeting the camps is critical to the success of America's war on terrorism. Not only does the United States want to get its hands on Bin Laden, but it also wants to destroy al-Qaida (Arabic for "the Base"), which uses the camps in Afghanistan for training terrorists from throughout the Islamic world. *Reports from AFP and AP*

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Terrorist hunt: More hot leads, confusion

(From page A1)

Even the real identities of all the suicidal hijackers are not known for sure.

Investigators do believe they know a few things of transcendent importance:

- That evidence of Osama bin Laden's involvement is growing and should be persuasive to US allies and other third countries when American armed forces move against him and his al-Qaida network.
- That more highly coordinated terror attacks were planned, and still might be.
- That not everyone involved in the United States has been caught.

No one pretends those supposed certainties are satisfying. A clear case against Bin Laden has not been laid out publicly, although authorities insist they have many of the elements.

And, Americans are given unsettling warnings that more may happen but no one can say what.

"I don't want to scare people or put fear in the minds of people, but . . . it's not a matter of if, but when," Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas said on Friday after an intelligence briefing.

The law doesn't normally operate quite this way. The hunt is like none other.

Doesn't apply

The norm of a complex criminal investigation—patiently piece together the evidence, watch and wait out the prey while trying to build a slam-dunk case, then prosecute them fully—doesn't apply this time.

Two urgent goals are being pursued: Head off a second wave of terrorism on US soil. Nail down the leads necessary for the military to go on the offensive, in a way that leaves little doubt to Americans and other countries that the right people are under attack.

And, of course, bring perpetrators to court.

Dead or alive will do at least when it comes to Bin Laden, President George W. Bush has said. "Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done," he said.

Some 7,000 FBI agents and their support personnel are on the case, as are the US intelligence apparatus and untold others in law enforcement and related fields, not counting US forces amassing overseas.

A few people key to the day of terror may be among those in custody. Authorities have arrested at least four people as material witnesses, meaning they may have critical information.

Eighty people have been detained using immigration laws that offer latitude to scoop up suspects and hold them indefinitely.

Among the arrests, detentions or material witnesses described as being of particular interest to authorities:

- Ayub Ali Khan, 51, and Mohammed Jaweed Azmath, 47, two men who left the Newark, New Jersey, airport aboard a flight for Texas about the same time as the hijackings. They were apprehended on a train in Texas after their plane was grounded in St. Louis. Officials said they had box cutters like those used in the hijackings. Box-cutting tools like those used by hijackers were found on commercial planes grounded by the Sept. 11 attacks, according to authorities.
- Zacarias Moussaoui, a French-Algerian man detained last month after his bid for flight training in Minnesota aroused suspicions at the school. Agents, tracing his earlier efforts to get flight training in Oklahoma, said he was only interested in mid-flight techniques, not takeoffs or landings. Moussaoui's mother in France said he had been "brainwashed" by Islamic extremists.
- Three men arrested in Detroit for identity fraud and misuse of visas, the first criminal charges in the case. Authorities said they had false IDs and information on airports and a US military base.

Some under suspicion had fit smoothly into the mainstream. "They cultivated friends and blended into American society to further their ability to strike," one investigator said.

Others were believed to have come to the United States from the Middle East only around the time of the hijackings.

One man in detention had recently obtained a license to transport hazardous cargo.

Within hours of the attacks, Bin Laden was officially a suspect and soon he was a prime suspect. His history and hallmarks are such that his name would have been fast off the lips of US authorities in any event.

But there was more than instinct behind the inclination to zero in on him, his network and those of his ilk.

In an intercepted communication, one Bin Laden associate was noted telling another that two targets had been hit, according to US officials and senators.

The dragnet—so wide that many Middle Easterners found simply with immigration problems are being drawn into it—has snagged a cast littered with associates, affiliates or supporters of Bin Laden.

The hunters know that is not enough. In the terrorism brotherhood, people know each other, egg each other on and help each other but that does not mean they did it.

US authorities say they have more on Bin Laden, perhaps enough to end any notion among moderate influential Muslims abroad that he is merely a dirty player in a worthy cause, but instead has been caught in pure evil.

Such conclusive evidence has not yet been disclosed. *AP*

Death toll now 6,818

NEW YORK—The death toll from the attacks on the United States stood at 6,818 Saturday after 11 more bodies were pulled from the ruins of the World Trade Center.

New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said on Friday that the number of missing could still fluctuate as officials cross-check reports of missing people.

More than 60 countries have now reported citizens dead or missing, mostly in New York, one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities.

But despite continuing round-the-clock rescue efforts, there was now next to no chance of pulling survivors from the rubble of the World Trade Center.

In New York, 6,585 people were killed or listed as missing from the World Trade Center disaster (comprising 252 confirmed dead and 6,333 missing, presumed dead). Workers have identified 183 bodies, including those of 34 firemen.

At the Pentagon, 189 people are confirmed dead or missing. So far, 117 bodies have been recovered, of which 52 have been identified as of Friday. The Department of Defense said search and recovery operations would continue.

The missing figure at both sites includes the 157 passengers and crew of the two hijacked aircraft that crashed into the World Trade Center and the 64 on the one that flew into the Pentagon.

Adding the 44 on the hijacked plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, the number of people on the four planes is given as 265. *AFP*

FBI may file raps against Abu Sayyaf

(From page A1)

any such US request "would be treated . . . in the spirit of cooperation, depending on whether we also need these personalities more here in the Philippines."

Golez also said there was "a likelihood" the United States would use the former Clark air base and Subic naval base to ferry equipment in an assault on the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

He did not say, however, if there had been an actual request from the Bush administration to use the facilities.

Golez's remarks came a couple of days after pro-Syrian Arabic weekly paper in Damascus, Syria, said the FBI has asked nine Arab and Islamic nations to hand over hundreds of suspected "terrorists."

The weekly Almoharrer said the FBI also asked the Philippines, apart from the nine countries, to hand over three Omani nationals arrested while they were taking pictures of the US Embassy in Manila, as well as Abu Sayyaf members.

Troops have arrested more than 100 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and sympathizers in crackdowns in Basilan.

The Abu Sayyaf has been holding US missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and at least 16 Filipino hostages for about four months in Basilan.

Robot and Bin Laden

In an interview with the INQUIRER in June last year, Galib Andang, aka Commander Robot, one of the leaders of the Sulu-based faction of the Abu Sayyaf, said Bin Laden was involved in the formation of the group.

Asked whether the Abu Sayyaf was getting financial assistance from abroad, Andang replied: "We are self-sufficient, but there was one who was helping us at the beginning, Osama bin Laden."

Asked how Bin Laden supported the Abu Sayyaf, Andang answered, "Through an organization here (in the Philippines). They have an office here."

He said the "money flow" was coursed through the Islamic International Relief Organization (IIRO), a charity foundation; respected in many sectors but also suspected by local intelligence officials to be a front for terrorist funding operations.

Andang, in an unpublished part of the interview, went on to enumerate, rather boastfully, the many projects of the IIRO—schools, livelihood projects and support for groups such as the Abu Sayyaf.

'Primary purpose'

The Philippine operations, Andang said, were under Jamal Khalifa, a brother-in-law of Bin Laden who has vigorously denied allegations that he was a conduit for Bin Laden funds into the Philippines.

Andang claimed that the "primary purpose" of the IIRO "is to help groups like us, and after they release the money, it is up to the people who receive it how they spend that money."

He used as an example the supposed fate of a project to fund the Al-Makhdum University in Pitogo on the outskirts of Zamboanga City. The foundation reportedly poured millions into that project, but the funds mysteriously dried up with only one academic building and an administrative office constructed.

"Khalifa does not trust us anymore, because these people just steal the money," Robot said, mentioning no one in particular.

His group was affected, he said. Because it no longer received funding from Bin Laden, the Abu Sayyaf had to resort to other means, such as kidnapping, to advance their "cause," he claimed.

Int'l network

Andang also said the Abu Sayyaf network and their sympathizers extended from Sulu and Basilan, and reached past the Zamboanga peninsula to mainland Mindanao, to some places in the Visayas and to Metro Manila.

He also mentioned the "international" components of this network to INQUIRER correspondent Noralyn Mustafa, who conducted the interview.

"At the time of our interview in June of last year, I thought those were just empty claims of a kidnap-for-ransom group leader who wanted to impress me with the extent of the connections and power of his seemingly ragtag band," Mustafa said yesterday.

"It was only recently when the research branch of the US Congress released its report on the list of countries where Bin Laden's terror cells are believed to operate, did it strike me how uncannily Robot's list matched that of the report," she said.

The US Congressional Research Service had identified the Philippines as one of the places where Bin Laden's terror cells are thought to operate.

Other countries on the list are Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia, Britain, Canada, Chechnya, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Kenya, Kosovo, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States, Uzbekistan, Uruguay, Qatar and Yemen.

A former Moro National Liberation Front officer corroborated Robot's claims after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York.

"Actually from what Robot told you will be able to conclude just who created the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Other suspects

In its report on Saturday, Almoharrer weekly said the FBI asked Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen to turn over the suspects or "face the consequences."

The list given to Damascus included 100 people belonging to Palestinian "extremist groups," while the one sent to Lebanon featured 40 people "linked to terrorism since the 1970s."

Forty people were on the list sent to Iran, all of whom have been sought since that country's Islamic revolution in 1979, the paper said.

Among them was Lebanese national Imad Mughniyeh, suspected of the 1984 kidnapping of William Buckley, the CIA's station chief in Beirut.

Earlier this week, a security website said Israeli military intelligence believed Mughniyeh was one of the masterminds of last week's terrorist attacks in the United States.

The other was named as an Egyptian, Ayman Al Zawahiri, believed to be a senior member of Bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

The weekly also said the FBI had asked Russia as well as seven Western nations to investigate an unspecified number of people believed to have links to Bin Laden. The Western countries named were Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and Switzerland. ***Reports from Reuters, AFP; and Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Pontiff calls for religious tolerance

(From page A1)

there is "no room for hatred, discrimination or violence."

"From this place, I invite both Christians and Muslims to raise an intense prayer to the One, Almighty God whose children we all are, that the supreme good of peace may reign in the world," the Pope said.

"With all my heart, I beg God to keep the world in peace."

Bundled in scarves and sweaters against the autumn chill, pilgrims began arriving at the square before dawn.

A military helicopter circled slowly above, while policemen and security guards scrutinized entry tickets and burrowed through people's bags, inspecting the sausages, bread and apples they brought to help them through the hours-long wait for the Mass to start.

Half-dozen children from a Christian orphanage held hands and danced in a circle, singing, while their teachers stamped their feet and blew on their hands to keep warm.

"What happened has shocked the world so much that people need his words of hope and love and faith. That's why we came," said Zinova Bigaliyev, a 42-year-old cellist who traveled 20 hours by bus and train from the neighboring Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan to attend the Sunday Mass.

Many in the crowd carried banners from their home parishes, some of them founded by Polish Catholics whom the Communists deported to the remote, harsh Kazak steppes in the 1930s.

"My parents dreamed of this day, but they didn't live long enough to see it," said Filia Bankowskaya, who was exiled to Kazakhstan with her family in 1936 at the age of 3.

With a cotton scarf tied tightly around her face, she leaned heavily on a metal barrier and strained to see the turquoise-blue, yurt-shaped altar constructed in front of the memorial's flickering eternal flame.

Addressing deportees and their descendants in the crowd, the Pope said he was "happy to be here today among you and tell you that you are close to the Pope's heart."

Catholics comprise just 2 to 3 percent of Kazakhstan's 15-million population. The majority religions are Islam and Russian Orthodox Christianity. *AP*

Expert on 'dirty money'?

(From page A1)

laundering genius."

The controversial congressman, facing extradition to the United States on various criminal charges, is also the chair of the House subcommittee on money laundering. His main task is to spearhead the chamber's effort to pass urgently needed legislation to make money laundering a crime in the Philippines.

The House version of the proposed law was approved at the committee level last week and is scheduled for floor deliberations starting today, when Congress resumes session.

The INQUIRER met with Jimenez on Friday to discuss his main inputs in the House bill, but instead of granting a formal interview, he merely referred this reporter to the transcripts of the House deliberations on the so-called dirty money bill.

House records reveal that Jimenez was most active in pushing for one specific provision: the inclusion of tax evasion and tax fraud among the list of unlawful activities to be considered sources of laundered money.

Jimenez got his wish: the committee-approved House version lists tax evasion and tax fraud among the 22 "predicate crimes" covered by the proposed law.

"Tax evasion and tax fraud is the vehicle of money laundering," Jimenez told colleagues, according to transcripts of the Sept. 12 House joint committee hearing on the anti-money laundering bill.

Wanted man

The irony could not have been lost on all the committee members. Tax evasion is one of the crimes for which Jimenez was indicted in the United States.

He has also been accused in the US of mail fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud, and making illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, during the reelection campaign of US President Bill Clinton in 1996.

But Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, who chairs the House committee on economic affairs to which Jimenez's subcommittee belongs, refused to accept responsibility for the controversial appointment.

As he put it in an interview over the weekend, it is the very "leadership of the House" that made Jimenez subcommittee chair.

Tax evaders

By including tax evasion in the list, the draft measure places tax evaders in the same category as robbery and kidnapping syndicates, drug traffickers, gambling lords, plunderers, swindlers, illegal recruiters, smugglers and white slavery operators.

Going by his argument, money that represents unpaid taxes and is remitted out of the country mainly by businessmen or big firms should be considered dirty money.

Incorporating this principle in the law will not only help deter potential tax evaders and boost the government's revenue collection, he said. Its inclusion is one of the top concerns of the Financial Action Task Force, the global anti-money laundering watchdog.

But Moreno expects a heated debate over Jimenez's input in floor deliberations today.

He explained that legitimate businessmen are wary that a dirty money law calling for closer scrutiny of a company's tax compliance records might be abused and become a "tool for harassment."

Extremists can't reopen religious divide for 'jihad'

(From page A1)

braced different religions and faiths, including Muslims, Christians, Jews and Hindus. The targets of the attacks were the symbols of the military and economic power of a country hated by terrorists, who are identified as Islamic extremists.

But the casualties were citizens of the world—not just Americans. The ruins of the World Trade Center may well be a multinational cemetery, a memorial to the first victims of this new war of the 21st century.

Although the Taliban in Afghanistan and the extremist Islamic citizens of Pakistan, of the Palestinian Authority and of other Islamic states are calling for a "jihad" (religious war) against the US, the composition of the victims of the terrorist attacks does not square with a religious war.

The Islamic terrorists killed fellow Muslims in the attacks, and millions of Muslims in many Islamic countries have joined the world in mourning and condemning the tragedy that has been aptly described as an attack on "civilization" and "humanity."

Perversion of Islam

Bush took pains in differentiating terrorism driven by Muslims from Islam itself. Bush said, "The terrorists practice a fringe form of Islamic extremism that has been rejected by Muslim scholars and the vast majority of Muslim clerics; a fringe movement that perverts the peaceful teachings of Islam."

"The terrorists' directive commands them to kill Christians and Jews, to kill all Americans and make no distinctions among military and civilians, including women and children," Bush said.

In implementing these objectives in New York and Washington, everyone was fair game. If Arlington is the cemetery of America's war dead, and if Blitburg in Germany is the cemetery of the World War II dead, the rubble in New York is the transnational cemetery marking the entry of the world into a new era of seamless warfare.

The lack of distinction between civilians and military as victims of attacks is a salient aspect of this new war that has blurred not only national territories but also the repertoire of weapons and tactics needed to eradicate terrorism. Even the terrorists themselves are transnational and have become globalized.

The terrorists, whom joint allied intelligence identified as belonging to the al-Qaida extremist group based in Afghanistan, are scattered in more than 60 countries. They have underground channels through which money financing terrorist activities flow, taking advantage of the well-developed financial and banking system of the modern capitalist economies.

No wonder the response to the attacks is global in scale, linking Islamic Pakistan with Christian North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the US.

Because of the transnational character of the terrorist organizations, it is hard to reduce the belligerence of the Taliban and other extremist Islamic groups into a religious war directed at America.

US natural leader

The US is the logical leader of the international anti-terrorism coalition because, first, it is the main target of the attacks.

Second, it is a superpower that has the resources—military, political, economic and diplomatic—to mount a global effort against terrorism.

And third, it is the rallying point of the democracies, which have pointed out that terrorism is a menace not only to civilization but also to democracy.

The undeveloped Afghanistan and Third World poverty are fertile grounds for political agitation against the advanced democracies. These economic grievances translate into a divide between rich and poor countries.

The Marxists, in their time, exploited the economic cleavage and disparities. The Islamic extremists have nothing to do with Marxist issues. The extremist Islamic clerics and Osama bin Laden talk about grievances of religious nature going back to the well-defined religious wars between the 11th and 15th centuries.

They are reviving the wars between the Crescent and the Cross.

But extremists gloss over the deep differences between the open and democratic systems of the Christian-Jewish, also capitalist, societies they rail against and the draconian societies which the Taliban, for example, have imposed according to their conservative and anti-modern values.

The anti-terrorist coalition that was galvanized in response to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington is not at all a totally Christian-Jewish alliance. The solidarity of the coalition is a response to the menace of terrorism that hits anyone, regardless of religion, nationality and political beliefs. It is a man-driven scourge, unlike the impersonal 13th-century Black Death (bubonic plague) that ravaged and killed a quarter of Europe's population.

While the plague was impersonal, terrorism is driven by people, full of hate and inflamed by messianic religious fervor.

Genghis Khan

When Genghis Khan's hordes—in the first cavalry blitz in history—swept from the Mongolian steppes through Central Asia, Russia and into Western Europe in the 13th century, their ferocity was vented especially on the Muslim principalities in Central Asia, which offered them strong resistance. They leveled Islamic city strongholds like Bokhara and Samarkand, whose populations were decimated. The Mongols took no prisoners.

The Mongols were tolerant of religion unlike their enemies. They admitted envoys of the Pope from Rome and gave them safe conduct.

Always a good political strategist, Genghis Khan knew about the Islamic-Christian wars of the 13th and 14th centuries. Although the Mongols fought the Christian armies in Russia, Hungary and in central Europe, Genghis Khan encouraged a tacit alliance between him and the Pope in a good example of divide and rule, so his generals could finish off the rebellious Muslim princes in Central Asia.

The Mongols recruited Armenians, who were Christians, as their allies as a gesture of peace with the Pope, and gave them autonomy to rule in some of their conquered territories that now form part of Russia.

If the religious cleavage was clearly defined in the religious wars of the Middle Ages, the Islamic extremists of the 21st century cannot reopen a new religious divide based on jihad. The biggest stumbling blocks to a religious divide are the globalized nature of the al-Qaida terrorist networks that have penetrated the crevices of the structures of global capitalism and technology, and the multinational mix of their victims.

These structures have given them facility to move across state frontiers to attack targets. This is why a holy war by terrorists will fail. But the world has to be warned that terrorists have a repertoire of weapons of mass civilian annihilation—bacterial and chemical warfare. Russian intelligence files handed over to the US show al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan for chemical and germ warfare.

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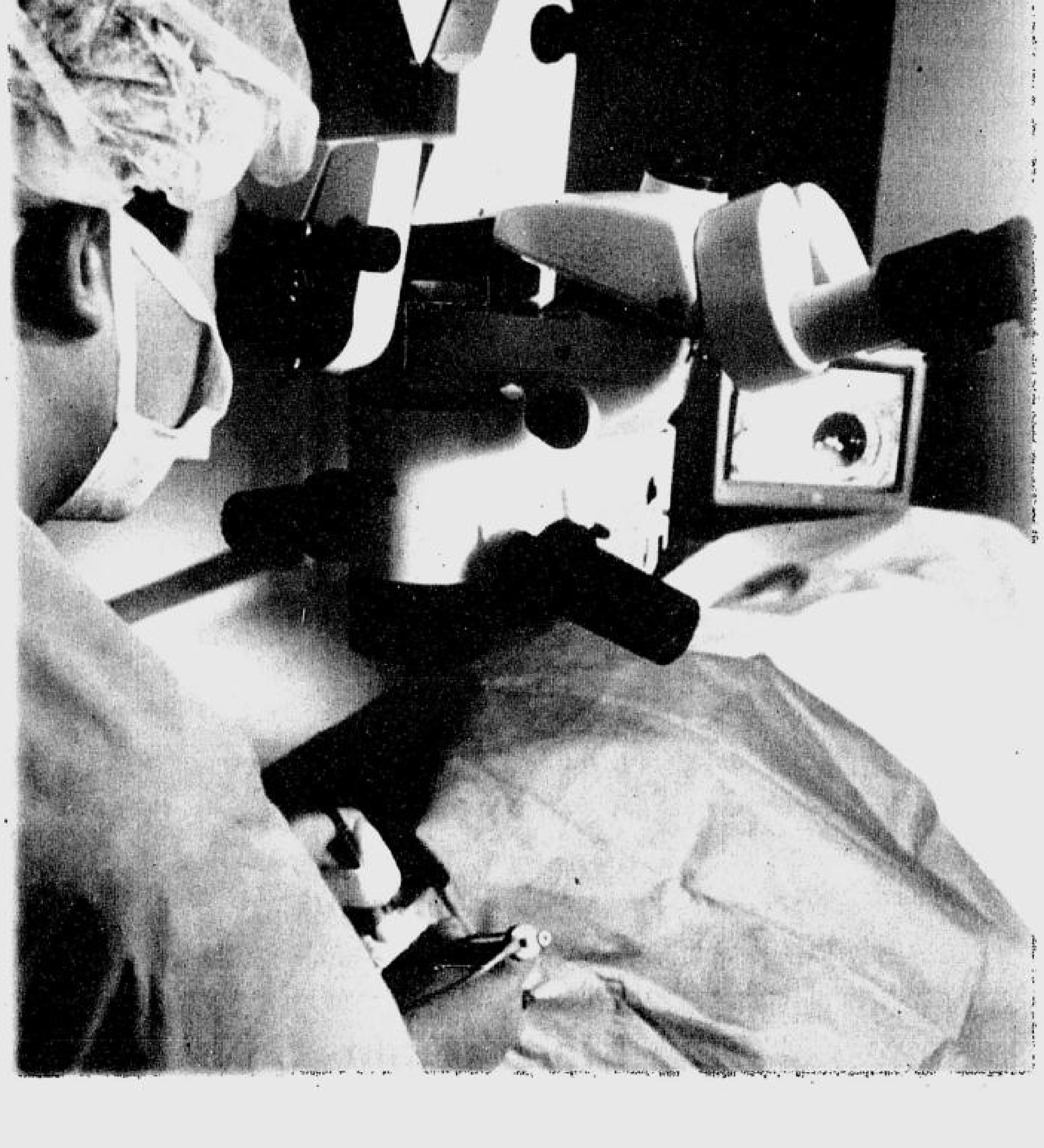

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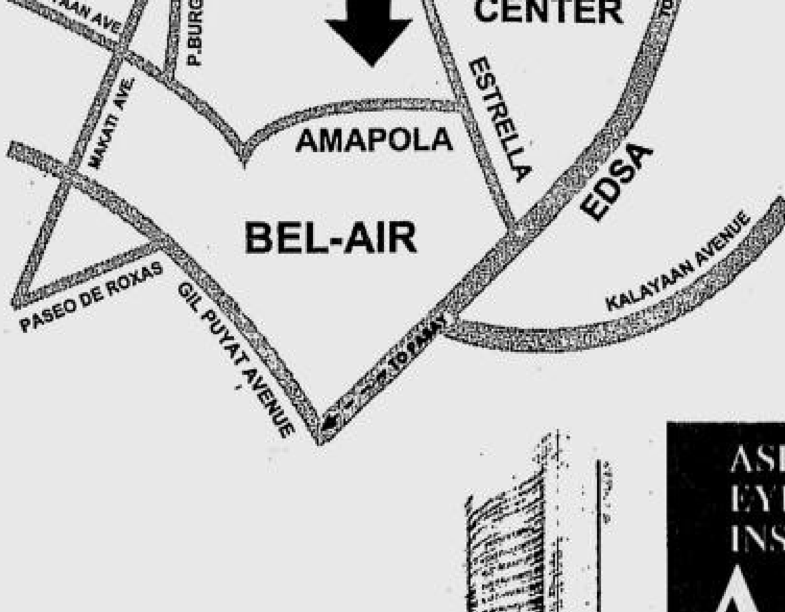

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Jordan comeback sign

WASHINGTON—There was another sign Saturday that Michael Jordan's return is imminent. A column in The Washington Post, without citing sources, said Jordan would confirm "early next week, probably Monday" his decision to play for the Washington Wizards this season. Jordan all but confirmed his comeback to The Associated Press on Sept. 10. At the time, Jordan planned to hold a news conference in Washington within 10 days, but last week's terrorist attacks prompted him to make the announcement more low key. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

It's Australia vs France

SYDNEY—US Open champion Lleyton Hewitt beat Thomas Johansson 7-6 (3), 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 Sunday as Australia clinched its semifinal against Sweden 3-1 to advance to a third consecutive Davis Cup final. In the final, Australia will play host to France, which eliminated the Netherlands in Rotterdam. The final will be held from Nov. 30-Dec. 2. After winning a first-set tiebreaker and dropping the second set, Hewitt won 10 of the last 11 games to take the third set in 32 minutes and wrap up the fourth in 24 minutes. *AP*

WBC SUPERFLYWEIGHT FIGHT

Gerry seeks crown in Tokyo today

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

TOKYO—In a cheery message, Rudy Salud said yesterday he wanted the Filipino people to start rejoicing already even as Gerry Peñalosa had yet to reclaim the World Boxing Council superflyweight crown tonight from Japan's Masamori Tokuyama here.

Supremely confident that Peñalosa will dethrone Tokuyama, Salud exhorted his ward to think about the "joy of celebration" 24 hours before the fight scheduled at 7:05 tonight.

Venue for the bout scheduled for 12 rounds is the 18,000-seat Yokohama Arena, which will be filled to the rafters according to fight promoters "for the fight's sheer promise of classic action."

"Today is a time of celebration even as Gerry's fight is yet to come tomorrow (today, Manila time)," Salud told Peñalosa and the tiny but star-studded RP delegation on the eve of the bout.

In the group were, among others, such luminaries like Sen. Ramon Revilla, famed dietician Sanirose Orbeta, fight promoter Jun Sarreal, sportsman George Alcantara, NHMFC President/CEO Chito Salud and Ole Orbeta, the one-time star center of the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

"The fight itself will have to be celebrated this early as it could yet be Gerry's most important fight of his life," said Salud. "It is a must that we start celebrating now because all the hardships, the anxieties and giddiness are supposed to be over now. We've done everything, covered everything, and there's but only one thing left that we must all realize we could not, and never, cover: God's will. The celebration calls that we leave Gerry's fate in the hands of our dear and merciful God."

Peñalosa had a trouble-free weigh-in yesterday at the Korakuen Hall as he tipped the scales at exactly 115 pounds, the same weight of the Japan-born North Korean Tokuyama.

"Just perfect," said Dr. Orbeta, Peñalosa's dietician of almost three years. "Gerry should be more than ready to go to battle tomorrow. I will immediately give him his recovery meal once we get to the hotel."

Peñalosa, who has not had food six hours before the weigh-in, was given his usual plate of rice, fish, fresh fruits, vegetable soup, spaghetti and lots of juice. Salt has been restored back to his diet.

"How about steak, Tita?" Chito Salud asked Orbeta. "I'm treating Gerry to a Kobe steak dinner."

"Go on," Orbeta snapped back. "But I will not talk to you again for the rest of my life."

Red meat is a no-no to Gerry because, according to Orbeta, "that will disturb" Peñalosa's muscles come tomorrow's fight time.

Morning jog

Before the weigh-in held in the afternoon, Peñalosa did his usual morning jog of 20 minutes and 30-minute workout.

At 9 a.m., Peñalosa heard Mass at a Roman Catholic chapel located just a block away from the Grand Palace hotel where he and the members of the RP contingent are billeted, including his common-law-wife Goody, who is heavy with their second child.

Even as the 5-foot-7 champion enjoys a 3-inch advantage in height over Peñalosa, the odds are dead-even.

During yesterday's press conference preceding the weigh-in, Peñalosa said he was happy that he was "to be back in the place where I won my first world crown."

That was in 1997, when Peñalosa dethroned Hiroshi Kawashima for the WBC crown by split decision.

"I thank Tokuyama's manager and the Japanese people for allowing me to fight again here," said Peñalosa. "I promise to give your money's worth tomorrow."

Tokuyama said: "I am in shape. I hope I'll be in shape too when I finally climb the ring tomorrow."

Said Peñalosa: "I punished myself in the gym training for this fight. But hopefully by tomorrow night, I will reward myself with a victory in the ring."

After a fan had gotten Peñalosa's fan outside the Korakuen Hall, Penalosa told the young man: "Thank you very much but I hope you will remain my fan after I beat Mr. Tokuyama tomorrow."

Autograph-seeker

"I will," said the autograph-seeker, smiling as he walked away after posing for a picture shot with Peñalosa.

The 26-year-old Tokuyama holds a 24-2-1, win-loss-draw record, with 6 knockouts. The two losses were inflicted by Filipinos Manny Melchor (decision) and Nolito "Suzuki" Cabato (7th-round TKO). The draw was against Cabato.

Interestingly, Peñalosa stopped Cabato in seven rounds some years back.

But Tokuyama's last two title defenses had been impressive. He decisioned countryman Akihiko Nago on Dec. 12, 2000, after bucking a sixth-round knockdown from a Nago left hook.

Last May 20, Tokuyama, who dyes his hair blonde, knocked out former world champion In Joo Cho in the fifth round with a right straight to the face.

Cho, a South Korean, was the same man who beat Peñalosa twice for the crown—both on split decision in fights both held in Seoul in 1998 and 2000.

In this his second attempt to reclaim the crown he first won in 1997, also in this city now experiencing the onset of a cold autumn, Peñalosa hopes to use the momentum of three straight knockout victories against two Thais and a Japanese former world champion since that failed bid to unseat Cho in January of last year.

"As I said the first time you interviewed me in Manila," said Peñalosa, who is 40-3-1, with 27 knockouts, "this could be my last hurrah. But then, this might be a hurrah that would be remembered for a long, long time."

The third man in the ring today is Briton Larry O'Connell, who has officiated in 53 WBC world title fights. The judges are Americans Chuck Williams of Hawaii and Chuck Hassett of California, and Briton John Keane.

In the supporting main bout, Filipino Rev Santillan will defend his OPBF welterweight title (147 pounds) against Japan's Kenji Go.

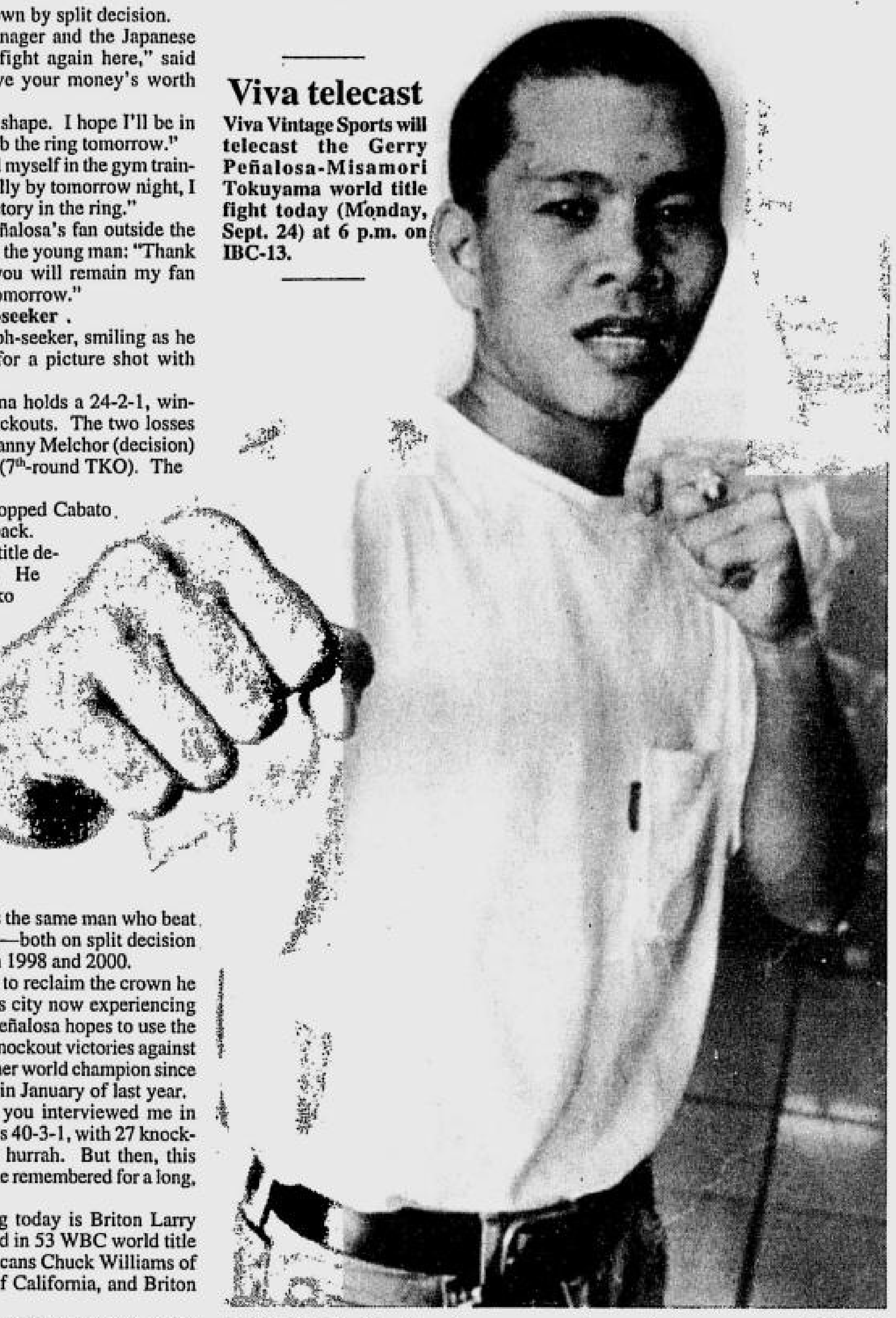
The 5-foot-10 Santillan, handled by Wakee Salud (Peñalosa's former manager) and with a spotless 14-0 record with 12 knockouts, is favored over Go, who is 9-3-2 with 7 knockouts.

"I will try to go for an early knockout," said the 24-year-old Santillan, born in Jaro, Iiloilo, and discovered by Tony Aldeguer, Cebu's famous patron of boxing.

Santillan, who joined Peñalosa in taking communion at yesterday's Mass, has former national boxer Brix Flores as his trainer.

Viva telecast

Viva Vintage Sports will telecast the Gerry Peñalosa-Misamori Tokuyama world title fight today (Monday, Sept. 24) at 6 p.m. on IBC-13.



PENALOSA: "You'll get your money's worth." FILEPHOTO

Peñalosa hears Mass

TOKYO—The chapel had only 14 benches. Each bench can seat 12 persons; it has no kneeling pad. No problem. Every Mass here does not require devotees to kneel during Mass.

But during yesterday's morning Mass beginning at 9 a.m., Gerry Peñalosa kneeled in prayer after taking communion. Another one followed suit: Rev Santillan.

Peñalosa and Santillan, two Filipinos who will fight Japanese opponents today at the Yokohama Arena (see related story), were with a handful of Filipinos who heard Mass at the chapel located just at the back of the Grand Palace hotel where they are billeted.

After communion, the priest announced—in Japanese as the Mass was celebrated in Japanese—to the parishoners the presence of Peñalosa. He called Peñalosa to the altar and, after a brief introduction, the devotees broke in a warm applause for their surprise guest. Peñalosa also got a blessing from the priest after the Mass.

Despite the smallness of the chapel—where there are only four candles alit at the altar during Mass—four priests officiated the Mass.

Just the day before, Gerry also went to the chapel. There was no Mass then. He prayed kneeling on the cement floor for nearly an hour, head bowed, eyes closed.

"I was touched," said Sanirose Orbeta, Penalosa's dietician who informed the priest of Gerry's presence in the Mass yesterday. "I've never seen a person so intense in prayer." *Al S. Mendoza*

Who is Tiny Literal?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ATENEO Hall of Famer Quintellano "Tiny" Literal is a simple man who is not known for his wit. Still, according to his friends and peers, the president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines is extremely interesting because he is honest, approachable and hardworking. And his manners are good.

Born on April 13, 1933 in Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte, Tiny had a humble beginning but his upbringing was not particularly lowly. His father, Felipe Literal, was a former Dipolog chief of police who married the former Anacleta Zorilla. His family lived simply and his early years promised nothing lofty. In Mindanao, Tiny played for Notre Dame High School before he moved to Manila where he finished his secondary schooling at the College of Oral and Dental Surgery. Then he transferred to the Ateneo, an academically strong school in the country, when the late Fr. Edgar Martin recruited him for the varsity team.

Towering at 6-foot-3 and weighing almost 200 lb. Tiny played a key role as center, leading the high-flying Ateneo Blue Eagles to their first postwar NCAA championship in the 1953-1954 season and repeating as champions the following year. In those days, when double-teaming was not yet in vogue, Tiny went the daunting task of guarding man-to-man the great Carlos Loyzaga of San Beda College. And, together with Mario Ballesteros and Francisco Rabat, Tiny rendered Loyzaga ineffective, preventing the Red Lions from winning the coveted Zamora Trophy twice in the NCAA cage wars.

On Dec. 8, 2000, Tiny was enshrined in the Ateneo Sports Hall of Fame during fitting ceremonies at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center under the aegis of the Hall of Fame executive committee chaired Victor A. Sison, a topnotch goalie during his heyday. Tiny caught the attention of Chito Calvo who convinced him to play in the MICAA, then the country's leading basketball league. He saw action from 1956 to 1959, donning the colors of 7-Up, multi-titled Ysmael Steel and finally Yellow Taxi. When he retired, he turned to coaching and played for the Bureau of Customs from 1963 to the '70s.

In 1966, Tiny was the regional director for Mindanao fo the BAP, later becoming its vice president. He was Lito Puyat's man in Mindanao. In the late '60s and, in spite of tempting offers from another camp, Tiny stayed loyal to Puyat when the latter sought and won the BAP presidency. But sources said that when it was the turn of Tiny to succeed Lito as BAP president, Puyat instead supported Freddie Jalasco, son-in-law of then President Fidel Ramos. Jalasco was later unseated by the regional directors, setting the stage for the bitter Literal-Puyat rivalry. Last Sept. 2, Literal won the BAP presidency in the election supervised by FIBA, ending once and for all the long-running BAP controversy.

Maca retains OPBF title

OSAKA, Japan—Jess Maca of the Philippines defended his Orient-Pacific Federation bantamweight title with a split decision over Ryuichi Minoriya of Japan yesterday.

There were no knockdowns in the 12-round title bout at Takasago city gymnasium in western Japan.

It was Maca's sixth defense of the title he won from Masahiko Nakamura in Tokyo on May 9, 1998.

Both Maca and Minoriya weighed 53.3 kilograms. *AP*

Realtors soar to 4-0 record

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports Arena)*
5:05p.m.—Ginebra vs Alaska
7:10p.m.—San Miguel vs Talk N Text

STA. Lucia Realty subdued Shell, 109-96, and snare the solo leadership last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Damien Owens got a huge lift from Dennis Espino and Paolo Mendoza as the unbeaten Realtors marched to their fourth straight victory, equalizing their 4-0 start in the 1998 All-Filipino Cup.

Espino and Mendoza combined for 50 points to backstop the all-around performance of Owens, who chipped in 31 markers.

In the second game, Ray Tutt starred as Batang Red Bull subdued Tanduay, 108-93, to enter the win column after three matches.

The Rhummasters, although fielding a prolific import in Billy Duwayne Thomas, slipped to 1-3.

June Navarro

Scores:
STA. LUCIA 109—Owens 31, Espino 29, Mendoza 21, Aquino 16, Tan 12, Del Rosario 0, Francisco 0, Ortiguerra 0, Belano 0.
SHELL 96—Jones 41, Wainwright 13, Jackson 12, Telan 10, Hrabak 7, Singson 7, Esplana 4, Marzan 2, Paras 0, Dela Cruz 0.
Quarters: 28-22, 59-41, 87-72, 109-96

Slashers score

GAMES WEDNESDAY
San Luis Complex
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Davao
5:30 p.m.—Cebuana Lhuillier vs FedEx Laguna

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—John Ferriols clustered five points in the last two minutes as the Negros Slashers thwarted the Socsargen-Taguig Marlins, 91-84, and gained the solo lead in the MBA Second Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

Those points defused a searing rally by the Marlins, who moved to within three points down the stretch from as many as 2 1points down entering the fourth quarter.

Negros posted its third straight win in as many outings, overtaking LBC Batangas which is still playing FedEx Laguna at presstime.

With the Marlins threatening at 86-83, Ferriols canned two charities and when Joel Co's jumper restored the gap, Ferriols sealed the outcome with a three-point play off Bong Salvador. *Roy Luarca*

NCA blasts off

FAST-PACED action awaits "Stagwars" fans during the second NCA (National Cockers Association) 7-Stag Derby beginning today (Monday) at the Araneta Coliseum.

Hosted by Gov. Ito Ynares, Jun Cometa, Boy Jiao, Jun Mendoza and Georgie Antonio of the Firefly Group, three-stag elimination matches are billed this afternoon followed by the four-stag finals on Wednesday, Sept. 26. This is the second leg of a five-leg series which offers handsome cash prizes to the winner and runners-up. Only stags screened the wing-banded by NCA, NGBA. GFBAN, Balbina, PAGBA and IGBA are entered in the Stagwars series. Also scheduled are stag derbies on Oct. 8-10, Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 22-24.

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UAAP: Archers, Eagles meet again after 13 years

By Dennis Eroa

DE La Salle pummeled National University, 111-85, last night to clinch the second finals ticket in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Green Archers put up a razor-sharp offense and sticky defense to break the game wide open in the fourth quarter en route to the devastating win.

La Salle thus arranged a blockbuster best-of-three series against title-hungry Ateneo starting Thursday.

The dream showdown is happening 13 years after the Blue Eagles beat the Green Archers for the 1988 crown at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"Everybody's waiting for this matchup. This is going to be delight for scalpers," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren, who is eyeing to duplicate the ``four-peat" registered by University of Santo Tomas from 1993-1996.

With his *balikbayan* mother cheering his every move, Ren Ren Ritualo broke the Bulldogs' hearts with his assortment of shots, while Mike Cortez, Mark Cardona, Joseph Yeo, BJ Manalo, Carlo Sharma and Mike Gavino displayed new-found intensity to the delight of their supporters.

La Salle trailed early, 30-35, but it was obvious the Bulldogs, who are in their first final four in recent memory, weren't capable of sustaining a fast start.

The acrobatic Yeo, Gavino and Cortez poured on the heat as the Green Archers surged to an 85-70 lead. Ritualo completed the humiliation with a three point play, 88-70, 4:13 remaining.

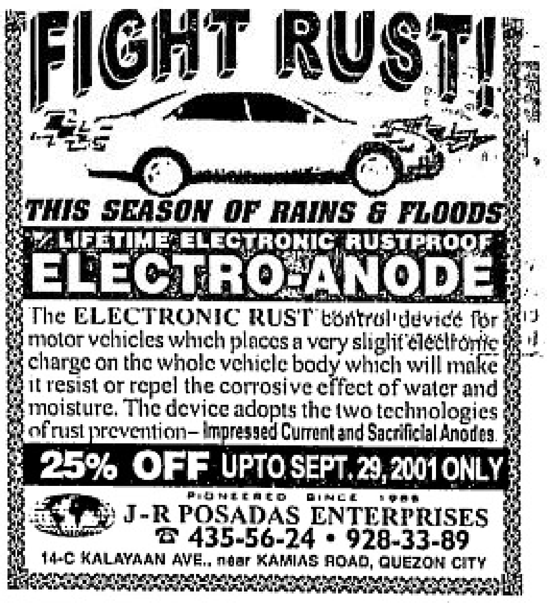
"The pressure took its toll on NU," said Pumaren, whose ploy to put the pesky Cardona on the smaller NU point guard Froilan Baguion paid off handsomely.

Scores:

LA SALLE 111—Ritualo 26, Cardona 19, Cortez 16, Manalo 11, Gavino 9, Yeo 7, Sharma 7, Ramos 6, Wilson 4, Villanueva 4, Sta. Maria 2, Arejola 0.

NU 85—De Castro 21, Napa 19, Tolentino 12, Manabat 8, Cayabyab 7, Neo 6, Urbano 5, Baguion 4, Grijaldo 3, Cajayon 0.

Quarters: 25-23, 49-47, 73-67, 111-85.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KGMA FOUNDATION

KL Games heroes to get more bonus

EVERY gold medalist in the last Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur will get an additional cash reward of P25,000 from the Kaibigan ni GMA Foundation on top of the original P100,000 incentive to be awarded by the Philippine Sports Commission.

TUASON

PSC chair Carlos "Butch" Tuason yesterday announced incentive scheme of the KGMA Foundation amounting to P2 million as personally promised by the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to athletes before the Games kicked off early this month.

Silver medallists will receive P12,500 while bronze winners get P6,500 aside from the usual PSC incentives of P50,000 and P25,000 respectively.

There are 163 medals won by the athletes during the last SEAG; 30 won golds, 66 bagged silvers and 67 went home with bronzes.

Also, the KGMA Foundation gave each member of the delegation an additional allowance of $100 each.

Long distance runner Eduardo Buenavista stands to emerge as one of the biggest beneficiaries of the incentive package for the golds he won in the steeplechase as well as the 5,000 meters. He is set to bank about P250,000 aside from the monetary gifts his association will give him.

"The money will be available within the week and our medallists can get their cheques from the PSC," Tuason said.

Tuason believed the money won by the medallists will never be big enough for the hard work they've done to "achieve glow for the country."

"No amount of money can pay the desire of our athletes to make the country proud of them but this is our modest way of extending our gratitude for giving their best against their regional rivals," said Tuason.

Tuason said that with the money they are bound to receive, the athletes can go back to training camps soon to concentrate on preparations for three major meets: the 2002 Asian Games in Pusan, Korea, the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam and the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

"We will continue searching for partners who will provide some kind of security for our top athletes and we will have to make it as among our priorities," he said.

Seminars boost Golf Show

LEARNING how to organize tournaments, improving salesmanship and the art of club making are among the many topics to be thoroughly discussed in the series of seminars lined up for sixth edition of the Philippine International golf show this coming Oct. 5-7 at the Megatrade hall 2 of SM MegaMall in Mandaluyong.

As part of its objective to make the annual Golf show more informational, the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) annnounced yesterday that free education seminars will be conducted for the first two days.

Local and foreign speakers with impressive credentials will discuss the topics. Among them are Sta. Elena superintendent Tim Walkers for green renovation, Francis Silayan Go of Custom Clubmakers for custom fitting, Por Hau Joo of Singapore for golf event management, Buddy Resurreccion for rules of golf, among others.

"We always make sure that every Golf Show is not just an exhibition of new equipment and products but as well as a major source of information and exchange of technology," said GDAP president Raymund Atendido. "There will be speakers for specific areas and markets."

Sponsoring the show are Jack Nicklaus apparel which will also hold a fashion show on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m., Hawaiian Tropic, Planet Sports, Srixon, Casino Filipino, Berocca, Milo Enervon Prime, Lipton Ice Tea, Citylite 88.3, Racks, Taytan International, Erthinshape.com and Pharmaton.

"We're about 80 percent booked and we're looking forward to get complete booking by the time the show opens," said Ms Lyn Eba of event manager Tradex Specialist.

There will be around 50 companies directly involved in the golf industry which will be displaying their products.

Also spicing up the show are other promotional activities like putting and chipping competitions, daily raffles and the launching of brand new equipment and balls by leading brands like Bridgestone, Callaway, Mizuno, Titleist, Wilson, etc.

For inquiries please contact Tradex Specialsit at 138-1848, 421-0779 and 438-7821 or visit the official website of the event at www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com.

Goosen up anew

SAINT NOM LA BRETECHE, France—US Open champion Retief Goosen recovered his first round form to move back on top of the leaderboard after 54 holes of the Lancome Trophy Saturday.

The defending champion fired a 6-under-par 65 to go with his opening 64 and his disappointing second round of 71, then watched as Sergio Garcia missed a chance to join him in the lead by making bogey at the last hole.

The South African led on 200, 13 under par, with Garcia on 201 after a 68, level with Niclas Fasth of Sweden, who shot 66.

Garcia and Fasth are both members of the European Ryder Cup team whose challenge against the US holders was postponed for a year last Sunday in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11.

AP

Sports, fitness courses slated

THE NATIONAL Athletic Training and Fitness Academy (Natfa), a forefront in scientific sports and fitness training in the Philippines, is slated to hold its athletic training and fitness certification courses next month.

Natfa is the pioneer in teaching scientific sports and fitness in the country. The teaching staff of Natfa is comprised of some of the elite scientific professors trained here, in the United States, Australia and Germany.

With more than a hundred Level 1 athletic trainers, strength trainers, aerobic science and fitness professionals produced, Natfa has paved the way for scientifically trained Sports and Fitness Professionals in the Philippines.

Headed by Jose Jimbo M. Saret M.S. Athletic Training (Brigham Young University USA/Athletic Trainer, Sta. Lucia Realtors), the other instructors include: Dr. Iggy Agbayani, M.D. Orthopedic Surgeon—Sports Medicine (Flinders University Australia/President, Sportsmed Inc.); Herc Callanta, M.S. Physical Education (UP Diliman/Athletic Trainer, Shell basketball team); Dr. Alberto Magpily, M.D. General Surgery, Traumatology and Sports Injury (Kreiskrankenhaus Swarland, Germany/Director, UP-Sports Physical Therapy Clinic); Luigi Bercades, M.S. Exercise Physiology (University of Oregon, USA) and Luchi Callanta, M.S. Nutrition (UP Diliman/specializes in sports nutrition).

Certification courses offered are in: athletic training level 1 (48 hrs.), athletic training level 2 (48 hrs), strength training / fitness instructor level 1 (24 hrs), aerobic science level 1 (24 hrs), sports first aid (24 furs) and athletic taping (16 hrs). For those residing in the province, home study program is also available.

For inquiries, please call Cris at 921-7224 or 924-1985. A P200 discount will be given to the first 20 registrants.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Asian PGA Tour/ Davidoff Tour—Tour Special at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
PGA Marconi Pennsylvania Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Primetime at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN
NFL - Denver Broncos vs Arizona Cardinals at 8:30 a.m. (r – 5 p.m. and midnight) on ESPN
SOCCER: English Premier Football League - Derby County vs Leeds United AFC at 12:30 p.m. (r), Newcastle United vs West Ham United at 2:30 p.m. (r), Highlights at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

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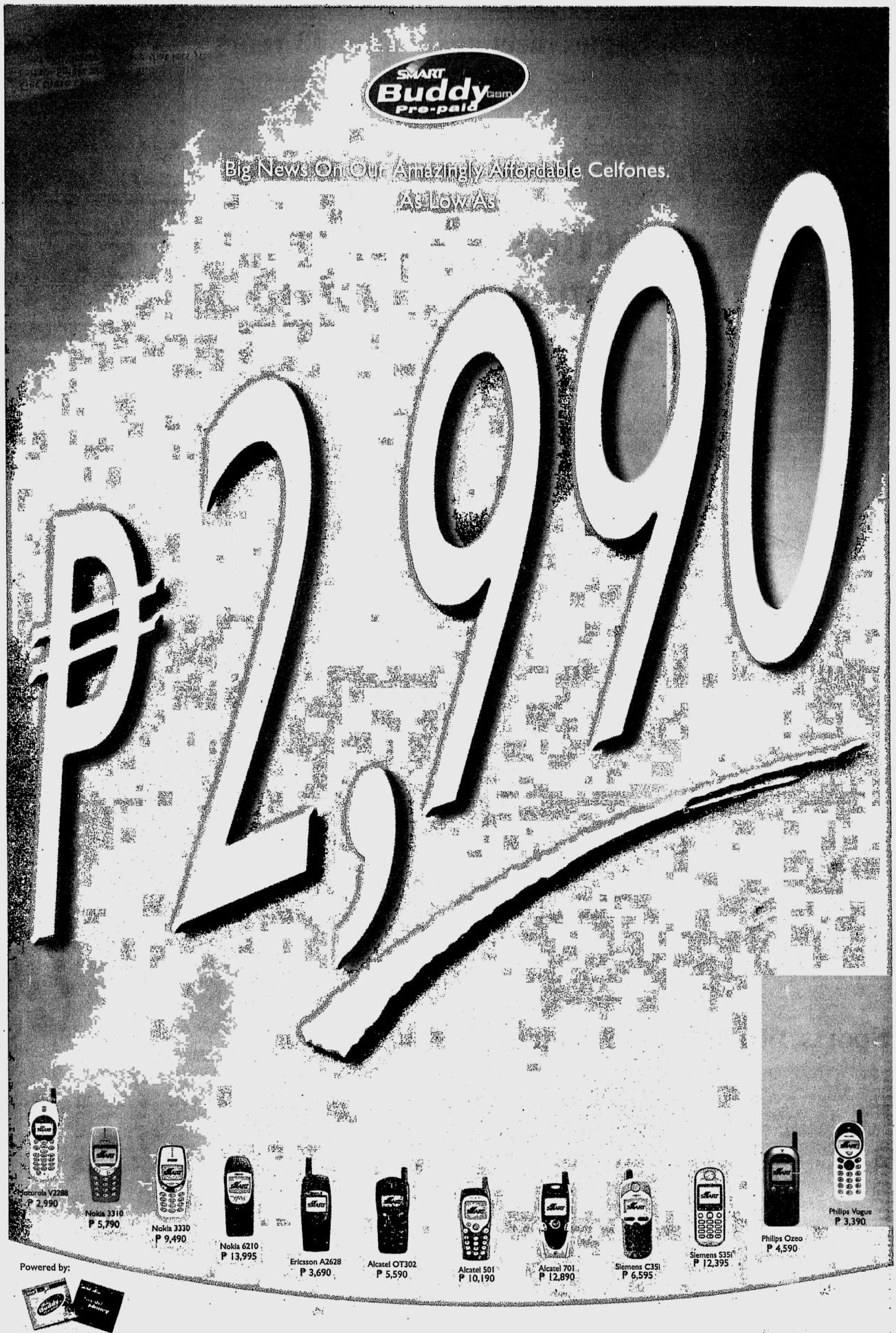
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LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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- NHI: New proof says Mehan is historical A25

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September 22-28

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Key in QUIZ<space><question number><space><answer letter> and send to 288
Example: QUIZ 1 A

No choice for Peñalosa but play terrorist

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE was only one way he could win, Gerry Peñalosa was told. His brothers, who also work as his trainers, said he must give chase, hard.

There should be no letup in his attack.

Gerry was also warned he couldn't stand still and try to outstare his foe. If he does that, he would fall an easy target to killer counter-missiles.

He must charge and charge. Every minute counts.

Peñalosa, 29, clashes with towering defending champion Masamori Tokuyama for the WBC super flyweight crown in Yokohama tonight.

The last time he fought in Japan in 1997, Peñalosa won by points and brought home the WBC 115-pound crown.

In the last two times he waged battle in Seoul, Peñalosa returned home empty-handed. He lost twice by controversial decision.

Penalosa is fighting in Japan, not South Korea. But his manager had reportedly told him he could not regain his world crown via a mere points decision. He must go for the kill and win by knockout tonight.

* * *

That was the Peñalosa mindset before leaving for Tokyo.

But a day before departing for the Japanese capital, he got a call from a concerned ally. This balding guy, who had been with him in practically all his important fights abroad, warned Peñalosa that chasing and charging, going kamikaze for a knockout, could turn him into an easy target. The strict battle order could render him very predictable. He could be in great danger of moving out like a toy robot.

What should he do instead, Gerry asked.

Use your head, give yourself wider options. You have the vaster experience, give yourself time to think inside the ring. Don't just jump off blindly and go for the kill.

What's the wider option?

Nothing wrong with announcing your battle plans, Gerry was told, but you're not supposed to just go headhunting to score an early knockout.

What should I try first?

Try and be a puzzle to him. Shock him. Try what the opponent does not expect. You could also lessen the pressure on yourself that way. Dodge and counter to the body. Hit him inside. He's a right-hander, so his side should be readily open to your left cross. Move in, duck and slam. Dance away, charge again. Try to take the wind out of him first.

Thanks for the reminder, Gerry said, but what was it you said about the body?

Yes, the body is an easier target because, unlike the head, the body has got no eyes.

Thank you again, I promise to do my very best, Gerry said.

* * *

Well, frankly speaking, it's hard to say if Gerry would use that last-minute advice, borrowed from the great Archie Moore, when he enters the ring in seaport Yokohama tonight.

Of course, it was encouraging enough that Gerry had sounded convinced that one big way to victory is via a surprise attack.

No, he does not have to fight like a terrorist. He need not resort to foul, godless tactics. But slamming blows into the belly or the side of the WBC champ, who could loom tall as the Tokyo Tower tonight, could open great possibilities.

The body blows could, if launched properly, lead to the tower's ultimate crash.

Remember, Gerry was told during the phone talk, how you put away a Korean challenger with one punch to the side of the body.

Yes, *kuya, suwerte talaga*, because I also got knocked down in the opening round of that fight.

It was no sheer luck, Gerry was told, and you scored that stoppage via a body blow because you did not throw that punch from your shoulder.

Please explain, *kuya*, Gerry pleaded.

You stopped him cold because you launched that punch using your thighs and hips. You know, a la Mike Tyson. All your power was there. You have the wider options. You have trained hard and long. Don't allow him to dictate the tempo of the fight. Let it be your game.

* * *

Well, all told, Gerry in that phone talk sounded ready to use two options tonight.

He could go kamikaze and score an early knockout.

Or he could play it sly and terrorize his foe with fiery body blows before going for a stoppage.

He has the weapons for both assaults.

Gerry Peñalosa will undoubtedly appear like a dirty terrorist to Japanese fight fans before the fight tonight.

But Peñalosa fully knows his mission.

It's not very sweet: Topple that tower of a champ, make the Japanese grieve.

'BIG' TOYS FOR LITTLE BOYS DENNIS SABANGAN

They don't even know how to handle them properly, but these boys, like their elders, are already absorbed with guns, even toy guns, like these children playing on a street in UP Diliman in Quezon City.

Tadao Hayashi slay witness abducted at SM mall, escapes

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRIMARY witness in the case of the killing of Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi was abducted on Saturday by at least four armed men in Fairview, Quezon City, police said.

But Reynaldo Ortillano, 29, managed to escape a few minutes after the armed men snatched him and his companion, known only as "Patis," in front of the SM Fairview mall in Quezon City.

Ortillano then went to Caloocan police sub-station 3 in Bagon Silang to report the failed kidnapping.

He told police that he and Patis were waiting for a jeepney ride in front of the shopping mall when armed men dragged them into a blue Mitsubishi L-300 van.

The abductors sped off toward Rodriguez (Montalban) town in Rizal, but heavy traffic stalled them on Litex Road, Ortillano said.

Police said one of the kidnappers alighted from the vehicle and tried to direct traffic.

Before the kidnappers could close the door of the van, Ortillano jumped out of the vehicle and escaped, police said.

Witnesses were only able to get an incomplete plate number of the van, PEN-1, police said.

Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief, said the kidnapping was "most probably" connected to the Hayashi case.

Hayashi was killed last July 22 in his house in Caloocan City.

"He's not a big man so why would anyone kidnap him except for his being a witness?" Mantele said yesterday in a phone interview.

Ortillano's affidavit led to the arrest of Alex Ilagan, 31, Hayashi's masseur and alleged lover whom police tagged as the primary suspect in the musician's death.

Ortillano claimed in his affidavit that he saw Ilagan knocking on the door of Hayashi's house in LD Village on the night of the killing.

Since executing the affidavit, Ortillano has been placed in the custody of the Caloocan police.

Mantele said Ortillano and Patis went to SM Fairview to get "materials" related to the Hayashi case. They were on their way back when the armed men snatched them.

But police could not tell why the abductors did not shoot or go after Ortillano. After Ortillano's escape, the kidnappers drove toward Rizal and took Patis with them, police said.

Mantele said he and his men were still trying to identify the kidnappers. But investigators are focusing on the possibility that the kidnapping was related to the Hayashi killing.

Police filed robbery with homicide charges against Ilagan. But he was released on bail after city prosecutors reduced the charges to homicide.

CRSAFP e-mail address

THE CIVIL Relations Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines announced that its e-mail address is crsafp@armedforces.mil.ph

The CRSAFP said that at its e-mail address, it will make available to the public all AFP policy pronouncements relative to the overall national security situation, including those on the Abu Sayyaf Group, the MILF, the Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and the National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF) and others.

Oreta wants safety warnings on kids' toys

OPPOSITION Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta wants to require toy manufacturers to include safety warnings and instructions on their products to protect children from injuries and accidents.

"Existing laws such as the Consumers Act of the Philippines, while recognizing the need to establish standards for the special packaging of consumer products for the protection of children, lack requirements for the special labeling of products to shield children from potential hazards," Oreta noted in a press statement.

She said manufacturers should prominently display cautionary statements on the packages of toys or games containing small parts that could endanger the safety of children less than 3 years old.

The same requirement applies to unpackaged toys sold through vending machines or in bulk sales, Oreta said.

In filing Senate Bill No. 861, she proposed that the packaging for any toy or game intended for use by children under 10 years old include warnings about the choking hazards of small parts and recommending that they not be used by children under 3 years old.

The same warning applies to small balls and marbles that might be accidentally swallowed, according to Oreta's proposed child-friendly law.

In the case of latex balloons or toys or games containing these parts, Oreta said similar warnings on choking hazards should accompany them with the additional cautionary statement that children under 10 years old could suffocate on uninflated broken balloons.

Toys and games containing latex balloons should also include statements requiring adult supervision of their use and reminders that broken balloons should be discarded at once, the senator added.

Oreta, who chaired the Senate committee on youth, women and family relations in the 11th Congress, said warning labels should be written in English or Filipino or both.

"A balloon, ball, marble or toy or game that does not comply with the requirements of the proposed law shall be considered a misbranded or banned hazardous substance and shall be withdrawn from the market at the expense of the manufacturer," Oreta said.

A banned toy or product can be resold in the market only if the manufacturer complies with the special labeling and safety requirements.

Under the proposed measure, any person or company violating the provisions of SB 891 shall be fined not less than P10,000 or imprisoned for not less than three months but not more than two years.

ORETA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 24, 2001
25th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezra 1:1-6

Gospel: Lk 8:16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one, after lighting a lamp covers it with a bowl or puts it under the bed; rather he puts it on a lampstand so that people coming in may see the light. In the same way, there is nothing hidden that shall not be uncovered; nothing kept secret that shall not be known clearly. Now, take care how well you listen, for whoever produces will be given more, but from those who do not produce, even what they seem to have will be taken away from them."

Commentary

Giving light is the task of every Christian disciple. What we learn from God, we must share to others. Unfortunately, many of us privatize the word of God. Instead of communicating it to our friends and loved ones, we keep it to ourselves. We don't bother to talk with them about it for whatever reason. Our mission is to enlighten our confused brothers and sisters. Not only we should do this to those who are near us, but also to those who are physically far away from us. What's the use of the high tech telephones, cellphones, and e-mails, if not to give them light? The end of the gospel reading warns: "from those who do not produce (communicate), even what they seem to have will be taken away from them."

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NEW MARKET

Suki Wet and Dry Market was recently opened in San Pedro, Laguna, during ceremonies that included a parade of residents, local officials and business people. The ceremonial ribbon was cut by (from left) Ithiel Corp. CEO Wyden King, Councilors Rosita Veroya and Susie Cruz, Mayor Felicisimo Vierneza, Councilor Delio Hatula and Suki vice president Noel Castillo.

Bureau of Customs sells 117 cars for ₱32 million

THE BUREAU of Customs has sold a total of 117 seized and abandoned vehicles for P32.2 million, according to Customs Commissioner Titus B. Villanueva who took over the bureau only last January.

Villanueva pointed out that the sale was a sort of record since 117 cars sold in five months, from April to August, is unprecedented in the bureau's history since.

He said the bureau asked the help of the Philippine Motor Association in auctioning off the seized and abandoned vehicles.

Sold were several Mercedes Benzes, Mitsubishis, Toyotas, Nissans, Daewoos, a few BMWs, Volvos, Opels, a Plymouth, Chevrolet, Ford Aerostar, Acura Integra, Dodge Caravan, Isuzu Trooper, and others, he said.

The cars ranged in age from a vintage 1968 Volvo to a 1999 Montero Sports, he said.

Some cars were sold as junk, such as a 1976 Colt Galant for P2,222; a 1987 Hyundai Pony for P5,000; and a Daewoo Maepsy for P7,300.

Some cars, however, fetched more than P1 million each, including a 1998 Toyota Lexus that went for P3.6 million, a Porsche Boxter for P2.8 million, a Toyota Land Cruiser for P2.3 million and a Toyota Prado for P1.1 million.

The sales proceeds of P32.2 million is P3.6 million or 13 percent higher than the floor price of P28.5 million for the whole lot, Villanueva said.

He credits the help of the Philippine Motor Association for the higher-than-floor-price sales proceeds.

For its assistance, PMA earned a commission of P1,028,623. This amount is very much lower than the 10.1 percent commission claimed by those who object to PMA helping the bureau in the public auction of seized and abandoned vehicles.

PMA assists the bureau by preparing the cars so that they would be presentable to the buyers. The public auction is made known to the thousands of members of PMA and the general public.

PMA also assists the bureau in determining the floor price of the vehicles.

To arrive at the floor price, Villanueva issued guidelines to the price committee headed by the Section V chiefs of the Port of Manila and the Manila International Container Port.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY)—Rape of a mental retardate—Carnal knowledge of a woman who is a mental retardate is rape under Article 266-A, paragraph 1 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by R. A. 6353. Proof of force or intimidation is not necessary as a mental retardate is not capable of giving consent to a sexual act. What needs to be proven are the facts of sexual congress between the accused and the victim, and the mental retardation of the latter. That the victim had sexual intercourse with the accused-appellant was sufficiently established by her testimony corroborated by the testimony of the medico-legal officer to the effect that there were lacerations and abrasions on the victim's private parts. As regards the mental retardation of the victim, the trial court likewise found the same to have been sufficiently proven. The physical appearance of the victim and the manner by which she testified persuaded the trial court that she indeed is a mental retardate. Mental deficiency is apparent from the halting and abbreviated answers given by the victim during testimony. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, People v. Magabo, G. R. No. 139471, January 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

NHI: New proof says Mehan is historical

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL Historical Institute on Saturday came up with new proof that the designation of the Mehan Garden as a historical site in 1934 was done in accordance with the laws of the times.

The NHI position counters the Manila city government's assertion that the declaration was invalid because it was made without due process.

"(City Hall's position) is utterly misplaced, late by 67 years and ironic," said NHI special counsel Wilfredo Peñaflor.

He reminded Mayor Lito Atienza that it was the city government that requested the king of Spain to establish the garden in 1858.

Peñaflor said the declaration of the Mehan as a historical site in 1934 by the NHI predecessor, the Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee, is legal and irrevocable.

He explained that Governor General Frank Murphy created the PHRMC through Executive Order No. 451 on Oct. 23, 1933 "to procure the permanent marking of historic antiquities, first in Manila, then throughout the Philippines."

EO 451, he said, imposed two conditions before a historical site could be designated.

First, the committee must agree on the precise wording for each marker. Second, the wording should be submitted to the chief executive of the Philippine Islands (the Governor General) for approval.

Peñaflor said both conditions were satisfied in the case of Mehan as shown in the Oct. 24, 1934 minutes of the committee's meeting.

"Governor General Murphy's approval of the marker for the Mehan amounted to its declaration as a historical site for all legal intents and purposes," the NHI lawyer asserted.

The committee was then composed of Walter Robb as chair, with Edward Hyde, E.B. Rodriguez, Conrado Benitez, Henry Otley Beyer, Fr. Miguel Selga and Jaime de Veyra.

The marker was presumably lost during the Second World War. It narrated how the garden was established and how its walls were named after famous Filipino and foreign scientists.

Until 1913, Mehan, the city's first zoological and botanical garden, was known as the Jardin Botanico. It was renamed after John Mehan, the American colonial parks superintendent and sanitation chief.

Peñaflor also reiterated that the procedure described under Republic Act No. 4846 could not have applied to the Mehan, as claimed by city legal officer Melchor Monsod.

"RA 4846 was enacted only in 1966 or 32 years after the Mehan's declaration," Peñaflor pointed out. "I don't know why the city officials could not get this simple fact."

He added that the procedure laid out by RA 4846 pertains to the declaration of "national cultural treasures," which are under the jurisdiction of the National Museum, but not of historical sites which are under the NHI.

Monsod asked why the Mehan was not included in the list of historical sites enumerated by Presidential Decree 260 in 1973. He cited the example of San Agustin Church, which had been declared a historical landmark prior to the issuance of the PD but was still included in the law.

But Peñaflor said the church's inclusion in the decree was for the purpose of elevating it to the status of a "national cultural treasure" and placing its preservation, restoration and/or reconstruction under the National Museum.

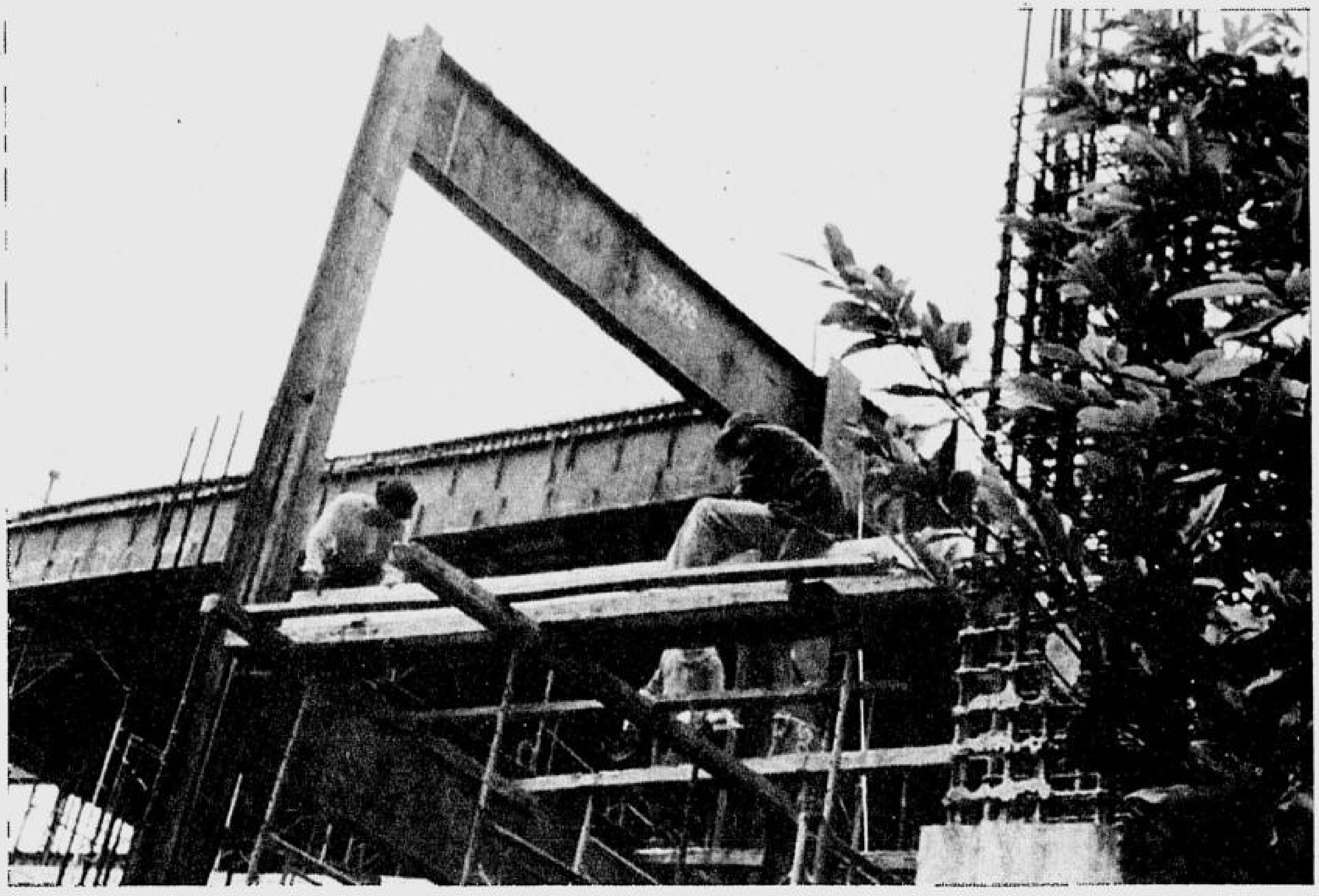
He said that to say that only 14 or 16 sites, churches and places should be protected under PD 260 would in effect "declare an open season for hundreds of historical shrines, monuments, landmarks and edifices designated by the NHI and its predecessor agencies over the years but which are excluded in the decree."

"The implication is frightening," Peñaflor said. "It will undo many years of heritage conservation work in the country."

The Mehan is the center of a raging controversy after the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources ordered the padlocking of the site of the P48.5-million two-story parking facility in the park's northern portion.

The DENR backed the NHI position that the Mehan is historical and could not be touched. But Mayor Atienza refused to follow the order, saying the project is not within Mehan and that the garden is never historical.

The mayor has challenged DENR and the project's critics to sue the city government.



WORK continues at the Park N Ride project even after the DENR "padlocked" the site. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Suspect in ex-mayor's slay falls

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—Police on Saturday arrested one of the suspected triggermen in last year's shooting to death of former Mayor Honorato Galvez and his bodyguard here.

Reports said Eduardo Fernando, a resident of Barangay Tibagan in San Miguel town, was arrested in the house of a relative in Novaliches, Quezon City, at dawn on Saturday.

Of the six suspects in the slaying of Galvez and his driver Rodolfo Mangahas, only former Mayor Enrique Viudez and Eulogio Villanueva remain at large.

Galvez and Mangahas were shot and killed in Barangay San Juan in this town on June 9, 2000. The killing occurred after Galvez attended a meeting with his supporters to discuss his plans to run for mayor in the May 14 elections against Viudez, his former vice mayor.

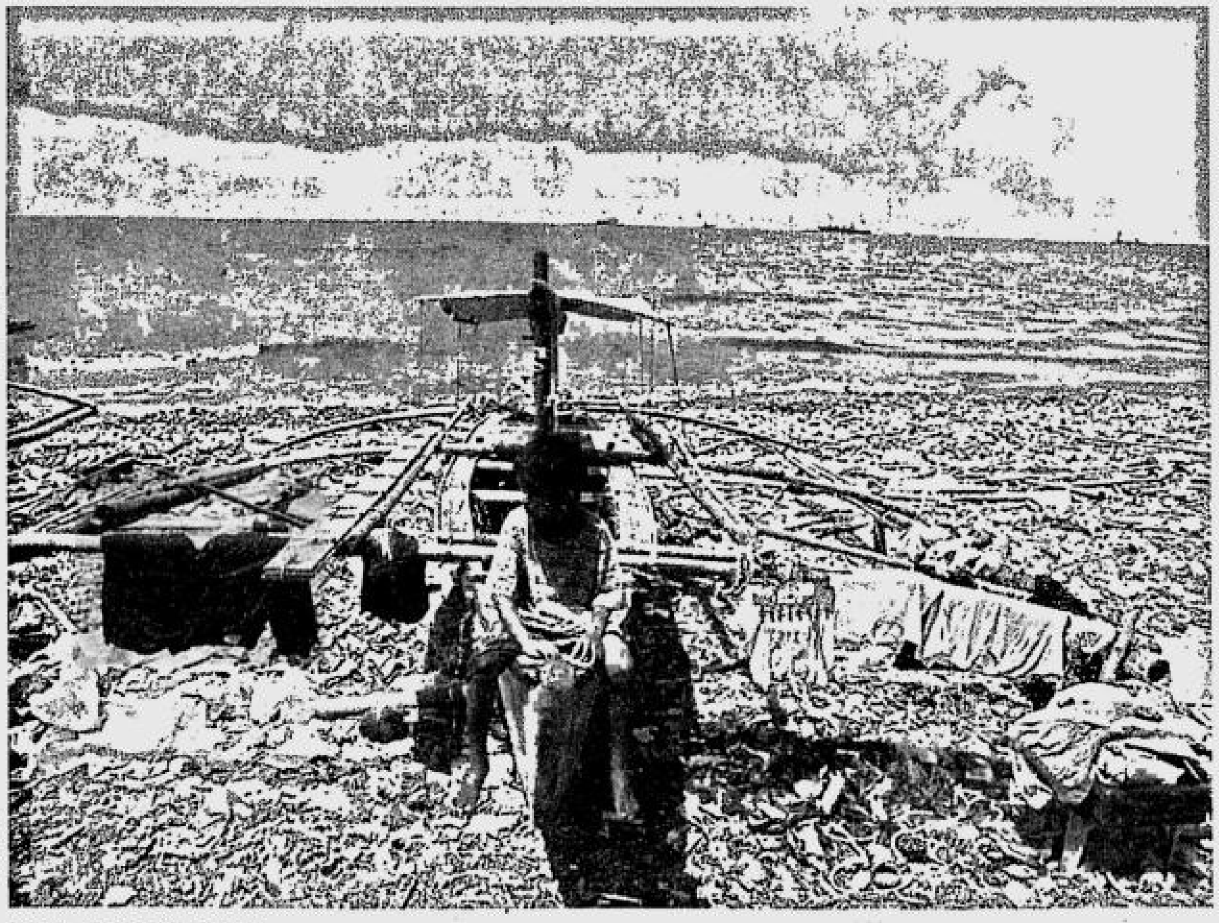
Last Wednesday, a local court issued a warrant for Viudez's arrest but policemen failed to arrest him. Villanueva is believed to be in the United States.

The other suspects—Gilberto Chico, Ronald Malagay and Cirilo de la Cruz—are detained at the provincial jail in Malolos town.

Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said they have received information that Viudez was hiding in Batangas.

He said he sent special police units to the Southern Tagalog province to hunt down Viudez.

Acuña said they are expecting the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order against Viudez today, Monday, to prevent him from leaving the country.



THE OTHER SIDE
Manila Bay, known outside the country for its glorious sunset, might also become known for the filth on its shores, like this area near the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard. EDWIN BACASMAS

Abalos wants buy-back law

By Nelson F. Flores

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. has asked Congress to pass a law that would require manufacturers of disposable items to buy back the used items for proper disposal or recycling.

Abalos made the proposal after noting that much of the waste produced by Metro Manila is from disposable items like cigarette lighters, diapers, plastic cups, styrofoam, cigarette butts and shaving kits.

He said a law should compel manufacturers of these items to buy back the used products and process them for reuse.

Abalos said all manufactured goods, especially the disposable kind, are potential waste matter that consumers would throw away sooner or later.

"Manufacturers have the moral responsibility to ensure that their products would not add up to the mess we are already burdened with," Abalos stressed.

He said if Congress agrees with his proposal, it would greatly boost the implementation of the MMDA waste recycling and composting schemes.

Metro Manila produces 6,000 tons of waste daily. A significant volume of the garbage is composed of discarded disposable items.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad also urged Congress to amend some provisions of the Clean Air Act to solve Metro Manila's garbage problem.

Trinidad also asked barangay and police to arrest people who would illegally dump garbage. He said those arrested should be prosecuted and jailed.

Bong Pineda son-in-law was drunk, cops say

THE SON-IN-LAW of Bong Pineda, crony of deposed President Estrada, was drunk on the day he reportedly shot himself in the carport of his house in San Juan, police said yesterday.

A guard employed by the victim's family reportedly told police that businessman Omar Victorino, 28, was reeking with liquor when he arrived at his house at 5 Illinois St. in North Greenhills Subdivision at dawn of Friday.

Victorino was seen staggering and had obviously been drinking when he alighted from his vehicle, police said.

Shortly after, his driver Rommel Rivera found Victorino sprawled in the garage with a gunshot wound in the right side of the chest.

The victim, according to his relatives, was a good shooter.

Victorino was still wearing a gun holster when responding policemen found him after his supposed suicide.

Recovered at the garage was a .45 pistol, which he allegedly used in shooting himself.

Police initially had difficulty in taking the victim's body to a crime laboratory for autopsy, as Victorino's family reportedly refused to let them do so.

Through the autopsy, police were hoping to determine if the nitrate burns on the victim's body were caused by a shot fired at close range or from a distance.

Suspicions of foul play in Victorino's death were raised because of the manner in which he was shot.

Investigators have yet to interrogate the victim's wife and other members of his family about his death, as they were still in shock.

Laborer stabbed, shot dead by 2 guards in QC

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO security guards, said to be of the construction firm FF Cruz, allegedly shot and stabbed dead a laborer outside the firm's compound in Quezon City around midnight Saturday.

Yesterday, the body of laborer Peter N. Anoba, a resident of Santolan, Pasig City, was found in a creek in front of the construction firm's compound in Barangay Bagumbayan, Quezon City, said investigator SP01 Dennis Basibas of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Anoba had a stab wound in the left side of the body and a gunshot wound in the right side, Basibas said.

Police said Anoba and four other men—identified only as Boboy, Jozar, Edgar and Alan—were in a makeshift boat and were paddling in the creek about midnight Saturday when the security guards allegedly fired at them with handguns, police said.

Police could not say why Anoba and his companions were in the creek.

The shots forced the men to jump into the creek. Anoba, although hit, managed to swim to the bank of the creek, police said. But one of the security guards allegedly stabbed him and then pushed him back in the creek, police said.

Barangay Bagumbayan officer Rolando Alvarez found Anoba's body in the creek about 6 a.m. yesterday, police said.

The body was later brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for an autopsy.

Police have yet to identify the security guards.

Ex-cop shot dead over unpaid electric bill

A FORMER policeman was killed in Quezon City reportedly over an unpaid electric bill.

Miguelito P. Lagunsod, 43, was shot dead by his tenant after they quarreled over the unpaid bill on Saturday night.

Lagunsod, 43, of Baesa, Quezon City, died from a single gunshot after his unidentified tenant shot him inside his apartment on Mendez Road, said investigator P02 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Dino said Lagunsod went to the suspect's rented room around 7:45 p.m. Saturday and confronted him about the unpaid electric bill. A heated argument erupted between the two men when the suspect allegedly tried to postpone again his payment.

This did not go well with Lagunsod because the other man allegedly had postponed several times the payment of his bills.

During their argument, the unidentified tenant pulled out a handgun and shot the former policeman in the abdomen, Dino said.

Lagunsod fell to the floor and the gunman fled, Dino added.

The victim's wife, Mary Ann, brought Lagunsod to the Quezon City General Hospital. He was declared dead on arrival at 8:50 p.m., Dino said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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News that makes a difference

5 QC bodies to probe ₱1-B land deal

THE QUEZON City Council has tasked at least five standing committees to investigate the controversial P1-billion land deal in Greenmeadows III.

In its last session before the 25-day break, the city council referred the resolution of 4th District Councilor Ariel Inton Jr. to the committees on education, subdivisions, justice and human rights, laws and environment.

The Inton resolution calls for the revocation of the memorandum of agreement between Paref-Northfield School for Boys and the Quezon City government under former Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., according to a statement issued by Inton.

The five committees virtually include all 26 members of the council and are scheduled to conduct joint public hearings after the break to determine if the MOA is disadvantageous to the city government.

In his resolution, Inton called for the MOA's repeal, citing the following reasons, among others:

- the MOA gave Paref the special privilege of using the 3.1-hectare P1-billion public property for 50 years rent-free;
- the MOA violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act because it allowed a private entity, where Mathay's close relatives were a part of or were enrolled in, to use a government property for its business;
- the council was misled into ratifying the MOA under suspended rules, without the benefit of public hearings, despite its disadvantageous provisions and the former mayor's conflict of interest;

Inton said the public hearings to be conducted by the five committees would enable the public, particularly the residents of eight subdivisions around the 3.1-hectare public property, to present other evidence that would justify the MOA's revocation.

Represented by the umbrella organization Coalition of Homeowners' Associations (COHA) led by its chair Peter Paul Bautista, residents earlier petitioned the incumbent council to recall the MOA which they described as "highly anomalous."

Bautista said that while Presidential Decree No. 1216 allowed the establishment of schools on government-owned open spaces, such as the 3.1-hectare Greenmeadows III property, the "law referred to public schools and not private schools which will earn millions in revenues from its operations on the public lot."

He said Mathay's "hindsight wisdom" has prompted the former mayor into supporting the revocation of the MOA, while most former and incumbent councilors who approved the MOA have similarly expressed support for its repeal and have washed their hands of the controversy.

"Given these, why is Paref insisting on its use of the government property," Bautista asked.

Paref-Northfield School 'welcome,' residents say

HOMEOWNERS in Quezon City have come out to support the establishment of the Paref Northfield school in the city's Barangay Ugong Norte.

"You can imagine my elation when I heard that a boys' school was going to be built nearby," said Ditas de la Paz, an Acropolis resident and mother of a 3-year-old boy. "We think the members of the Quezon City council are being led to believe that homeowners are against this school. I am a homeowner and I welcome this school and have friends who feel the same way."

De la Paz is a member of Homeowners Organization of Parents for Education, a group that has decided to take a stand on the controversy. The group said it decided to go public when it found that the issues over the school were being obscured in what the group called "legal gobbledygook."

"We also note that the opponents have not been as vocal about the proposed establishment of commercial entities in front of Corinthian Hills Subdivision, which will definitely congest traffic along Temple Drive, similar to the traffic situation along C-5 in the Acropolis area due to commercialization," De la Paz said. "What's this? We welcome commercialization but say no to a school?

"We think the primary issue here is how to move forward with programs and policies that support the education of children and make Quezon City a better place to live in, especially for those who cannot afford to send children to more expensive schools," she added.

Paref-Northfield is a non-stock, non-profit organization that seeks to put up a school in Greenmeadows III. Paref-Northfield said half the high school population would be allocated for scholars to be chosen from poor but deserving youths in Quezon City.

Those opposing the project say that it will cause traffic in the area.

Paref-Northfield said it would put in place measures that would ensure that traffic congestion would be kept to a minimum, including no-parking and left-turn policies along the main road and expanded internal parking areas.

"We are afraid that something as important as the education of our children and the building of our communities is being subjected to a scare campaign on, of all things, traffic," De la Paz said.

Two years ago, the Paref-Northfield school for boys, which is renting a small building in the Morato area of Quezon City, began scouting for a place to house the facilities it needed. Last February, it entered into an agreement with the Quezon City government for the use of the property.

Paref-Northfield emphasized that the title to the property remains with the Quezon City government, and that its use as a school remains consistent with the use of open spaces according to Presidential Decree No. 1216.

"We hope the Quezon City council considers the interest of our city in providing education for our children and for the poor," De la Paz said. "This is a good opportunity for them to show it. Impose stringent rules so that traffic is kept under control. But there is a way to solve the issue of traffic without sacrificing our children's education."

She also appealed to Quezon City Councilor Antonio E. Inton Jr., who has been very vocal in questioning the project, to approach the question with an open mind and to consider the long-term interests of the city's youth. The city council is reportedly set to schedule an official public hearing to hear both sides in the debate over the school.

Blind masseurs take care of La Salle community

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

RODOLFO Sarmiento and his wife Grace look forward to going to school, but not to earn a degree or teach a course. They go to school to give students and faculty soothing massage.

The couple are among a group of barbers, hairdressers, masseurs and masseuses who have been tapped to staff the new De La Salle Wellness Center in the newly built Brother Celba John Hall on the Taft Avenue campus of De La Salle University.

The Sarmientos, like the four other masseurs and five masseuses who work with them, are blind.

A brainchild of Brother Rolando Dizon, the wellness center first hired barbers to work for the La Salle brothers after Dizon discovered that most of them received measly benefits from their work.

Now, the Sarmientos have stable jobs that provide more substantial benefits than their previous jobs. They would serve about 11,000 customers, composed of athletes, students, faculty members, brothers, visitors and members of the La Sallian community.

They would be rendering their service along with Robert Almario, a barber, and Marina Angeles, a beautician.

Almario, one of the two barbers, hails from a depressed area in Bacolod City.

Angeles, a mother of five children, gives manicures, pedicures, haircuts and facial services.

To help people like these, Dizon launched the Caucus of Poverty Reduction (CPR) in 1999. CPR director Chris Delgado said the program aims to assist underprivileged sectors through entrepreneur and livelihood projects. One of their projects is the wellness center.

Dr. Osman Luis Ranid, director for Fostering Shared Commitments, handles the wellness center, which was officially launched last Aug. 13. Ranid assists the participants in developing their businesses.

In addition to the two barbers, CPR has added one masseur and one masseuse to work in shifts, and a hairdresser to cater to the average La Sallite's grooming needs.

Mang Rudy is chair of the New Vision Multi-purpose Cooperative on Don Pedro Street in Singalong, Manila. It's a non-government organization (NGO) founded in 1997 that employs the blind or the partially blind to serve the community, giving them a source of income despite their loss of sight.

Customers are largely professionals, such as doctors, and even politicians.

A masseur since 1998, Mang Rudy jumped at the chance to work on a vast campus. "It's a great help for us to be given the opportunity to work at a school," he said.

The services are offered at cheaper rates than in regular salons because the school subsidizes the operation.

A haircut is P50 for men and P70 for women; facial, P200; hair dye, P250; manicure, P50; pedicure, P70.

For a stress-free rate of P250, one can lie down and treat himself to a pampering Swedish or shiatsu massage, or acupressure treatment.

Staff members are paid daily on a commission basis. The barbers who were trained in Herway at SM Megamall, and hairdressers will receive half of the total revenue.

The masseurs will take home 60 percent of the day's earnings. The balance will be used for operations, expenses and maintenance of the facilities.

Ranid expects the idea to attract enough patrons from the community to give the barbers, hairdressers and masseurs a steady source of income.

Unfortunately, the wellness center in La Salle is not open to ouotsiders, Ranid said. Outsiders who want their nails done would have to find less academic surroundings to do this.

'FLOATING' MEN

EDWIN BACASMAS

Weekend visitors at the park at the Manuel L. Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City are treated to a free show as members of a circus troupe practice their tightrope act while reading the day's paper.

Carnap suspect falls

POLICE busted a group of alleged car thieves terrorizing car owners in northern Manila following the arrest of its leader in Valenzuela City on Thursday.

Suspect Edgardo de Leon, 46, a buy-and-sell agent of cars and a resident of Navotas, was arrested while trying to steal a vehicle in Valenzuela City, police said.

Authorities believe De Leon and his group were responsible for the series of car thefts in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela during the past several months.

Investigation showed that De Leon forcibly took a private jeep while its driver was maneuvering along Mac Arthur Highway in Malinta, Valenzuela.

The driver, who was not identified, sought the help of SPO4 Arthur Quinonez.

Quinonez arrested De Leon and brought him to the Malabon police headquarters.

Police seized from De Leon the jeep (PGT-322), a red Mitsubishi Mirage (PBC-150), and a Mitsubishi Lancer, said case investigators SPO1 Edelfonso Orig and SPO1 Geore Gubatan of Malabon.

Also found on De Leon were dozens of car keys, which he might have used in stealing vehicles, police said.

Police would be filing criminal charges against De Leon and would be looking for other members of his group. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Parking allowed only in designated zones

MANILA motorists are warned to park their vehicles only in designated parking zones and to pay only to authorized Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB) parking collectors.

The MTPB, under the office of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, has started the strict enforcement of City Ordinance No. 7812, as amended by Ordinance No. 7988, which prescribes rates for parking, towing impounding and storage for stalled motor vehicles and fine for illegal parking.

Noli Mendoza, MTPB director, said that more than 150 properly uniformed parking collectors have been deployed in various districts of the city to collect fees and issue official receipts on vehicles parked in designated areas.

"The strict enforcement of the ordinance is in response to numerous complaints from motorists that many unscrupulous persons are illegally collecting parking fees and some of these persons are even dropping the names of barangay officials allegedly authorizing them to collect the fees," Mendoza said.

This sole authority belongs to the MTPB, Mendoza added.

He said the MTPB was created under Ordinance 7815 in November 1993 to enforce laws, ordinances and rules and regulations on traffic and parking.

Mendoza also cautioned motorists not to park their vehicles in no-parking zones. Soon, the city government will tow away all illegally parked vehicles and will fine the owners and drivers, he said.

Robbed while relaxing

DRIVER Reynaldo Pablo, 42, was relaxing outside his house in Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila yesterday when three armed men took his jewelry worth about P50,000.

Pablo told police that the men, who were armed with handguns, alighted from a red Toyota Corolla (WLP-669) and casually approached him about 6:45 a.m. yesterday, said SPO3 Marlon Masangya of the Western Police District Station 1.

The men took at gunpoint Pablo's gold bracelet worth P33,000 and gold necklace worth P15,000, then escaped on board their vehicle, police said.

A group of armed men calling themselves "Bacunawa gang" has been preying on unsuspecting men relaxing outside their houses early in the morning, according to police.

The group usually drives around an area to look for victims wearing pieces of jewelry. The suspects would then approach the victims and seize their jewels, police said.

Christian V. Esguerra

₱315,000 taken in break-in

REAL ESTATE agent Grace Gutierez-Bautista, 45, lost P315,000 worth of cash and valuables to robbers who broke into her house in Quezon City last Saturday.

Bautista, of Barangay Sta. Monica, Gulod, Novaliches, told police her home was robbed while she and members of her household were away, the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit reported yesterday.

Police said Bautista lost to the robbers jewelry worth P150,000; a P75,000 personal computer; two TV sets worth P55,000; a P15,000 component; and a VHS player worth P10,000.

Bautista told police that the robbers struck between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday when no one was home.

The robbers entered Bautista's house by destroying the padlock of its main door, police said.

Investigators are trying to find out if any of Bautista's neighbors noticed the robbers. Police are also gathering evidence that might lead to the identities of the robbers. *Philip C. Tubeza*

ST. JOSEPH BATCH '76

As part of their yearlong silver anniversary, the members of St. Joseph's College Batch '76 have launched a search for outstanding alumnae. Awardees will be honored during the grand alumni homecoming on Dec. 27 at the St. Joseph campus on E. Rodriguez in Quezon City. Nominations, including the bio-data of the nominees, may be faxed to lawyer Dot Ramos-Gancayco at 931-31-80. Batch members include (standing, from left) Ruby Malig, Cynthia Velasco del Pilar, Marge Ribaya Villonco, Marika Amigo-Bulahan; (seated, middle row) Tet Tiangco, Dr. Corazon Abu-Esteban, Dot Gancayco, Odette Quiambao-Sibajan, Ida Planas-Quedding, Nina Jacinto-Aquino, Connie Jose; (front) Jo Dumlao-Gomez, Evaflor Savellano-Bulanco and Beth Vila-Ang.

Valenzuela wins national awards

CARLOS

VALENZUELA City has received major awards from various national offices in August alone.

Valenzuela has been maximizing its potentials despite its annual budget of P1 billion, which is smaller than the multibillion-peso budgets of highly urbanized cities in the metropolis, according to Mayor Bobbit L. Carlos:

The Parish of the Holy Cross Credit Cooperative (PHCCCO) recently won second place in the search for the biggest and most successful cooperative in this year's Gawad Pitak given by the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The cooperative also received a cash prize of P200,000.

The PHCCCO is now part of the Gawad Pitak Hall of Fame as it is the third year in a row that it was chosen to receive the award on the national level.

The Valenzuela Cooperative Development Office (VCDO) handles the PHCCCO, along with the other cooperatives in the city.

Valenzuela is considered the emerging cooperative capital of Metro Manila, according to local officials.

The city government also earned a plaque of recognition in the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Kabalikat Award 2001. The Valenzuela government has various training programs for its residents. It has also set up livelihood training centers in some barangays.

The city government built the Valenzuela Computer Training Center, the City Polytechnic College, and the Productivity Skill Capability Building (PSCB) Center for disadvantaged women.

PSCB has produced more than 5,000 graduates in dressmaking and sewing and another 5,000 in its various livelihood programs.

Miss Earth adds touch of green to beauty tilts

"I BELIEVER that for beauty pageants to have relevance and impact in the new millennium, they must change and overcome their being stereotyped as events for just promoting peace and goodwill," says Ramon Monzon, producer of the Miss Earth Beauty Pageant which makes its world debut in Manila next month.

Although Miss Earth will still be first and foremost a beauty pageant, the competition gets a new and fresh perspective from its mission: for the delegates and winners to promote worthwhile environmental causes and to be actively involved in the care for and preservation of Mother Earth.

A total of 50 beautiful women from all over the world start arriving in Manila in the first week of October to participate in the first-ever Miss Earth pageant.

Miss Earth is the brainchild of businessman Monzon and former beauty queen Lorraine Schuck. Their company, Carousel Productions, have been involved in organizing and producing beauty pageants for a decade now.

The first Miss Earth competition will be held at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City on Oct. 28, 2001 and will be telecast live nationwide on RPN Channel 9.

Carousel Productions has signed an agreement with Star Group Limited of Hong Kong, the biggest cable television network in Asia and the Middle East, for the latter to broadcast Miss Earth in the 35 countries covered by Star World Channel.

EQ (environmental awareness and knowledge) and IQ (intelligence) will play an important role in the selection of the Miss Earth winner. It will continue to maintain certain beauty pageant segments like the parade of national costumes, the swimsuit and the long gown competition, but the question and answer portion will focus on world environmental concerns.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon recently announced that the Department of Tourism has adopted Miss Earth as one of its tourism projects for the year. Part of the DOT commitment to the pageant organizers is bringing the 50 delegates to various tourism destinations.

Palawan is one of these destinations, in a tour sponsored by the Office of the Governor, Joel Reyes.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez promised to support Miss Earth by providing the candidates with tree seedlings they will need for their tree-planting activities.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos will host the Miss Earth candidates in the towns and cities of the metropolis where all 50 delegates will promote MMDA's waste segregation project.

The Miss Earth delegates will also tour colleges and universities to promote awareness of environmental problems and solutions.

Representing the Philippines in the Miss Earth competition is college sophomore, Carlene Ang Aguilar, 19, who won the recent Miss Philippines beauty pageant. Aguilar will also serve as the official hostess of Miss Earth and will lead the other candidates in bringing cheer to the beneficiaries of the charitable organizations supported by Carousel Productions.

SHAMITA Singha, India

DANIELA Stucan, Argentina

CARLENE Ang Aguilar, Philippines

Ex-broadcaster on Radio Veritas turns archbishop

A FORMER broadcaster in the Urdu program of Radio Veritas Asia (RVA) was ordained archbishop in Lahore, Pakistan last Sept. 11.

Archbishop Lawrence J. Saldanha, the new Archbishop of Lahore, was director of Rabita Manzil, the National Catholic Office of Social Communications for Pakistan, when he started a regular radio program in the Urdu language on RVA on Aug. 14, 1987, according to the Radio Veritas Asia Foundation.

The Urdu programs, aired twice daily, was transmitted from the RVA studios in Quezon City, Philippines through shortwave transmitters in Palauig, Zambales.

The programs in the Urdu language are partly prepared in the Lahore center and edited in Quezon City. The programs also reach some Urdu- speaking parts of India.

Archbishop Saldanha visited his former working place last Aug. 13 to mark the 14th anniversary of the program.

Radio Veritas Asia is the only continental Catholic short-wave radio station in the world with programs in 17 different languages.

Pope John Paul II called the station the "missionary of Asia."

The pope commended the station "for its almost 30 years of evangelization through broadcasting." He said "efforts (must) be made to strengthen this excellent instrument of mission through appropriate language programming, personnel and financial help."

Gordon attends world tourism conference

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon heads the Philippine delegation to the World Tourism Organization general assembly in Korea and Japan.

GORDON

Gordon will be in Seoul, South Korea from Sept. 24 to 27 for the tour plenary meetings of WTO's general assembly.

The continuation of the plenary meetings will be held in Osaka, Japan from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1.

With Gordon will be his two undersecretaries, Evelyn Pantig and Rolando G. Reyes.

On Sept. 24 in Seoul, Gordon will chair the 17th meeting of the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific. He will later sit as an observer in the 66th executive council meeting.

He will attend the first plenary meeting of the general assembly on Sept. 25. He will deliver a speech either on that day or on Sept. 26.

Sept. 30 is the millennium conference of tourism leaders. Gordon is a panelist in the first session on the topic "The Millennium Challenge: Quantitative and Qualitative Changes of the International Tourism market."

Gordon is expected to provide the participants with in-depths analysis of the current markets for the Philippines, recent trends and changes, and how the Philippines foresees the coming years.

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1 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
Lords	BANYO QUEEN
Jennet	PUKYUTAN

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PUKYUTAN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	PUKYUTAN
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
5	BANYO QUEEN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	PUKYUTAN
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	BURLESK QUEEN

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	PUKYUTAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVED
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	RESERVED
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2 (DTS)	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	BANYO QUEEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ANIMAL
2	A.I.
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	RESERVED
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS)	BORLESK QUEEN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3 (DTS)	PUKYUTAN
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
5	MANO MANO 2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	PUKYUTAN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	CROCODILE
3	VENUS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MANO MANO 2
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	BANYO QUEEN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PUKYUTAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PUKYUTAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	PUKYUTAN
3	MANO MANO 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CROCODILE 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	MANO MANO 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	MANO MANO 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS EX)	ENEMY AT THE GATES

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1 THX	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	A KNIGHT'S TALE
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I.
9	BANYO QUEEN
10	ORIGINAL SIN

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BANYO QUEEN
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	PUKYUTAN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	RESERVE
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	ORIGINAL SIN
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	PUKYUTAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I.
3	SCARY MOVIE 2
4	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BANYO QUEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PANINDA/TEASER
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	BORLESK QUEEN
ROBEN	PUKYUTAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	DUNGEON... / DRIVER

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	PUKYUTAN
REMAR-2	BURLESK QUEEN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BANYO QUEEN
B	MANO MANO 2
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-3	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-4	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-6	PRINCESS DIARIES

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	SOON TO OPEN
CINEMA-2	SOON TO OPEN
CINEMA-4	SOON TO OPEN

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	THE STRANGER
CINEMA-2	AMBISYOSA
CINEMA-4	THALIA

'Krisis' segment on NBN newscast

THE NATIONAL Broadcasting Network (NBN) is adding a segment in "Tele-Dyaryo" (8 to 10 p.m. on weekdays) that focuses on the crisis that we have to deal with from day to day. The segment called "Krisis" aims to underscore these unresolved issues, focusing on its impact to each of our individual lives and communities.

For its maiden telecast this week starting tonight on "Tele-Dyaryo," Krisis features both the issues of narco-politics and terrorism as it grips America and the rest of the world.

"There is a need to define terms like narco-politics, narco-state, money laundering and terrorism," explains Mia Concio, chair and president of NBN.

"These are big words with even bigger meanings that translate into the quality of life and the consciousness of future generations."

"Krisis" means to underscore terms and definitions that we confront in headline stories, elaborating on their meanings and qualifying the impact these will have on our society in general.

"This is the challenge we gave our NBN news team as we continue to strengthen 'Tele-Dyaryo,'" said network general manager Joey Isabelo.

"Events are happening so fast and with advances in information technology, these events are then communicated to TV audiences at an instance."

"Krisis" will be produced by the NBN news team and shown weekdays, with materials further edited into a one-hour program to be shown on weekends.

SEGUERRA

Chatterbox concert

FORMER child star Aiza Seguerra performs in "Aiza Seguerra's Pagdating ng Panahon... the Concert," Sept. 29, 9 p.m. at Chatterbox in Robinson's Galleria.

The one-night show is a benefit for the Bayan Fund Foundation.

Sharing the stage with Aiza is singer-comedian Rey Kilay; host of the Library in Adriatico st., Malate.

Aside from singing with Aiza in the quadruple platinum hit single, "Pagdating ng Panahon," Rey Kilay will also render other '90s hit classics with Aiza such as "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and "If," plus "I'm Sorry," the second single culled from the album.

Tickets are at P350 each. Call Josie or Espher 426-6423 to 28.

Special showcase for Chinese-language movies at Fukuoka Film Festival

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THIS year's Fukuoka filmfest presents a special showcase of Chinese-language movies from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan:

"Devils on the Doorstep," a film from China and an award-winner at the Cannes Film Festival, is a moving depiction of farmers living under the occupation of the Japanese Army.

"Ordinary Heroes," from Hong Kong, depicts the energetic social and ideological activities of intellectuals prior to the return of Hong Kong to mainland China.

"Ha Ha Shanghai" is a joint Hong Kong-US production. The filmmaker has lived in the United States and now teaches in Hong Kong. She visits old acquaintances in Shanghai, thus transcending national boundaries.

"Fleeing by Night" is from Taiwan and is described as "traditional theater set to western music," criss-crossing from Tientsin to New York, and back again.

Also from Taiwan are "The Cabbie," a stylish commodity, and "Betelnut Beauty," which won the Best Director award for **Lin Cheng-sheng** at the 51st Berlin filmfest.

From Korea: "Bichunmoo" is an elaborate historical drama, with one spectacular fight scene after another. And "Barking Dogs Don't Bite" is a light, stylish comedy.

From Japan: "Hole in the Sky" is about the strange encounter of a lonely man and woman. "Hush!" which elicited attention at this year's Cannes Film Festival, is a drama about gay men.

From the Philippines, "Child (Anak)" is about a woman who works abroad to give her children a better life, which they are able to achieve materially, but not emotionally and psychologically.

Filipino movies also get a special showcase at the Fukuoka filmfest by way of the retrospective screening of Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes laureate **Marilou Diaz-Abaya**. Seven of her movies are being screened:

"Of the Flesh (Karnal)" is on the negative effects of male dominance.

"Madonna and Child" is about families being disrupted by parents' having to seek employment abroad.

"Redeem Her Honor" urges women to stand up and fight against rape and other forms of female subjugation.

"Milagros" is about a woman who faces tragedy due to the structure of family ties in the Philippines.

"In the Navel of the Sea" is about a boy who takes over from his mother as a midwife on remote island. The film overflows with a love for ethnic customs and traditions.

"Jose Rizal" is on the life of the national hero and his role in liberating the Philippines from its colonial masters.

And "Reef Hunters" depicts child labor and men who live and cope with the sea.

Mr. Sato singles Diaz-Abaya out as a favorite of the Fukuoka filmfest and its audience. Her winning the Fukuoka Asian Culture is deemed Prize "an extreme honor for the Fukuoka Film Festival because six of her films have been exhibited so far at our festival, with many of them becoming well-known throughout Japan, Asia and even the world after their exhibition in Fukuoka.

"You could say that Marilou Diaz-Abaya is an Asian film director the people of Fukuoka have given their full support to.

"All of her films shown here are deeply rooted in addressing the present state of the Philippines. While sharply criticizing the problems the nation faces, they also depict overflowing love for the country and its people," Mr. Sato concludes.

Gary V discourages his kids from following in his steps

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MORE than being a pop idol, concert and recording artist, songwriter and hitmaker, **Gary Valenciano** is first and foremost a parent.

Gary is father to **Paolo**, 16, **Gabriel**, 13, and **Kiana**, 8. When Paolo told him he wanted to study at the New York University (NYU), Gary did not give in at once.

"It's hard to let him live alone in New York, especially after what happened," Gary says, referring to the World Trade Center attacks. "That city has a way of changing people's minds.

"I told Paolo he can take a few years of college here to get the feel of college life in Manila, then he can travel."

Paolo has traveled around the world and he has seen the difference in life in another country.

"In the States, he sees his cousins who are so independent and do a lot of things at a young age," Gary says. "That's probably what he wants to do."

Paolo gets affected when he is compared to his popular dad, which is often.

"There are some people who blame him because he cannot really sing," Gary says. "I know he can be a good director. That's why he wants to go to NYU. But his mom said he is a better actor. He played the lead in 'Florante at Laura' in school and I almost fainted. I couldn't believe it was him acting onstage."

Paolo is a high school senior at the Tabernacle of Faith. He is not yet allowed to drive and when he goes out on Saturdays, he is supposed to be home by 2 a.m. He is not allowed to go out on weeknights or be with a girl alone.

"Paolo is pretty responsible even on his own," Gary says. "He's very open with us and he listens. I realized you have to learn how to grow up with your kids. I'm 20 years older than Paolo, but I have to learn to constantly adapt to what he does."

Gary is aware that his show biz work has taken much of his time away from his family.

"Now that they're growing up, they need more of our time now than ever before," he says of his kids. "Responsible parenting is very important. You don't just provide, you have to be there for your children."

He refuses to name a favorite child. "My kids are different in their own way," he grants. "Gabriel is more of the performer like me. He also likes playing basketball. Kiana is our doll, our angel."

As much as possible, he discourages his kids from going into show biz. But in the case of Gabriel who seems the most likely to follow in his footsteps, Gary says he will simply support the boy's inclinations.

The pop idol recently released an updated version of his album, "Revive," from Universal Records. The CD has spawned two hits — the remake of **Steven Curtis Chapman**'s "I Will be Here" and **Todd Rundgren**'s "Love is the Answer."

The new package comes with a bonus VCD of the music videos of "I Will be Here" and Gary's new single, "Lupa," a revival of a **Rico Puno** original. The MTVs were directed by **Boom Dayupay** of Kulay.

"Revive" is now a certified double platinum. The album contains other inspirational tracks like "People Need the Lord," "The Warrior is a Child," "Hindi Kita Malilimutan" and "More Than Wonderful," a duet with CBN Asia's 700 Club host, **Tricia Amper-Jimenez**.

The launch of the repackaged "Revive" album comes close on the heels of Gary's latest triumph in the 14th Aliw Awards, where he was named best concert act (male) for "Radical."

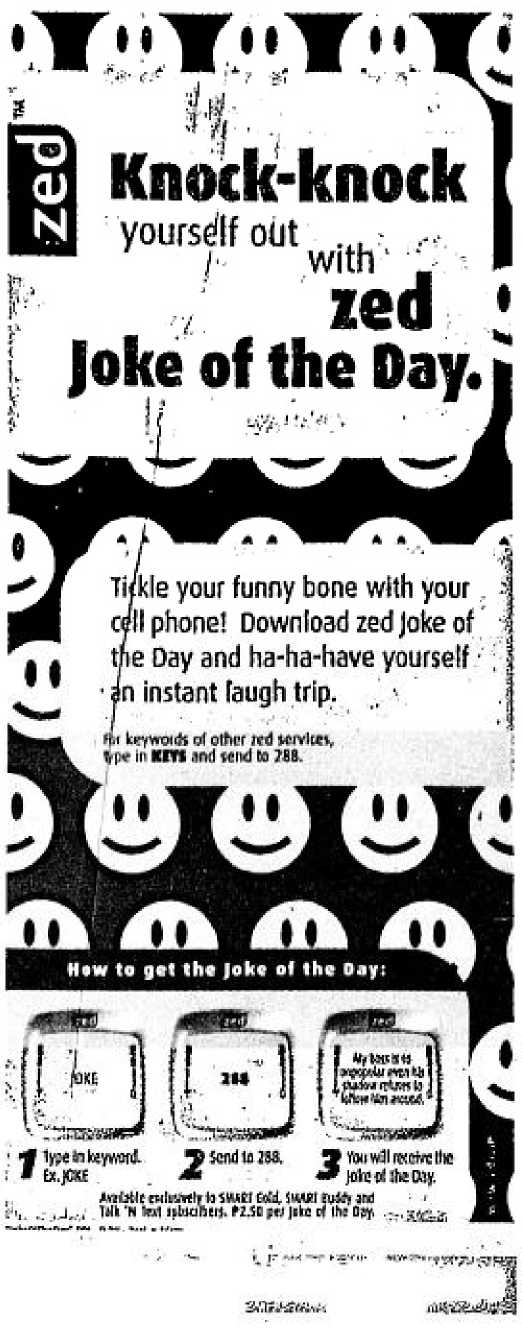
DAD GARY with Kiana. "You have to be there for your children."

Facial cellulitis

AS of this writing, Gary is in New Zealand for a concert with his dance group the Manoeuvres. Prior to last Saturday's show, we received a text message from Gary's wife, **Angeli Pangilinan-Valen-ciano**, that **Jason Zamora** of the Manoeuvres was rushed to the emergency room because of an infection caused by facial cellulitis. He was injected with antibiotics and was confined because his face was swollen.

Doctors did not allow Jason to perform in the concert last Saturday, according to Angelie. If Jason wasn't rushed to the hospital right away, the infection could have been very dangerous because it could reach the brain.

Angeli said the Filipino nurses in the hospital were all very nice and attentive to Jason.



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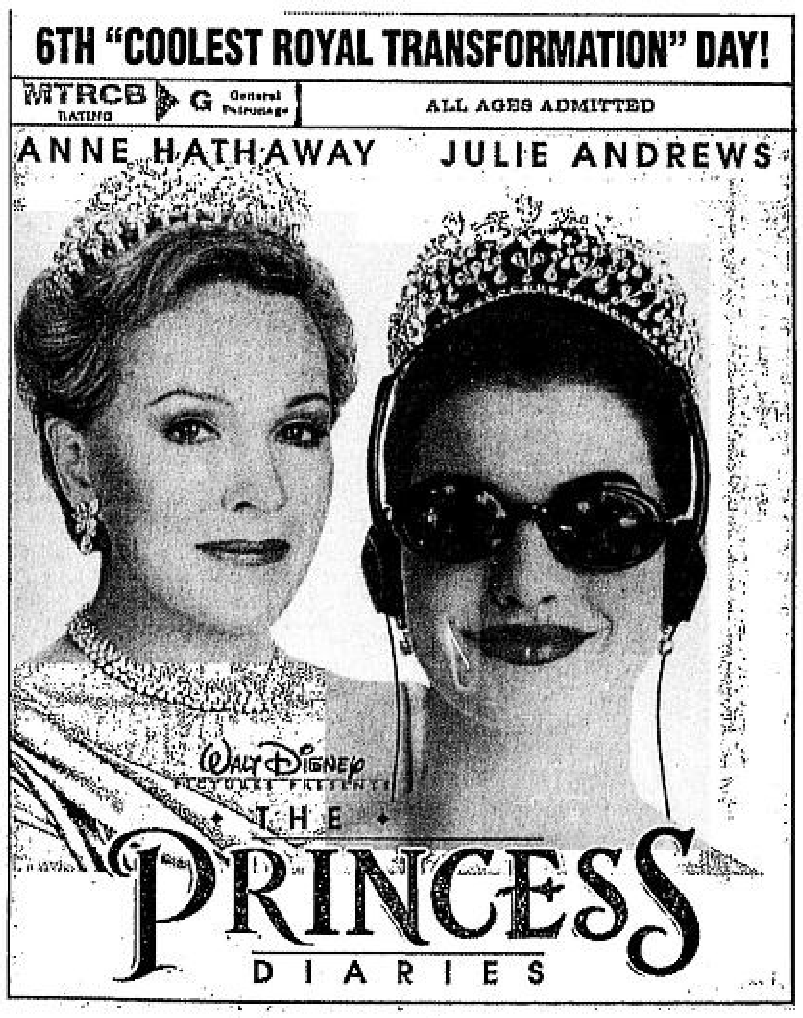
POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 10:55, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35	A KNIGHT'S TALE - P 13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20
ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	ENEMY AT THE GATES - R 18 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.



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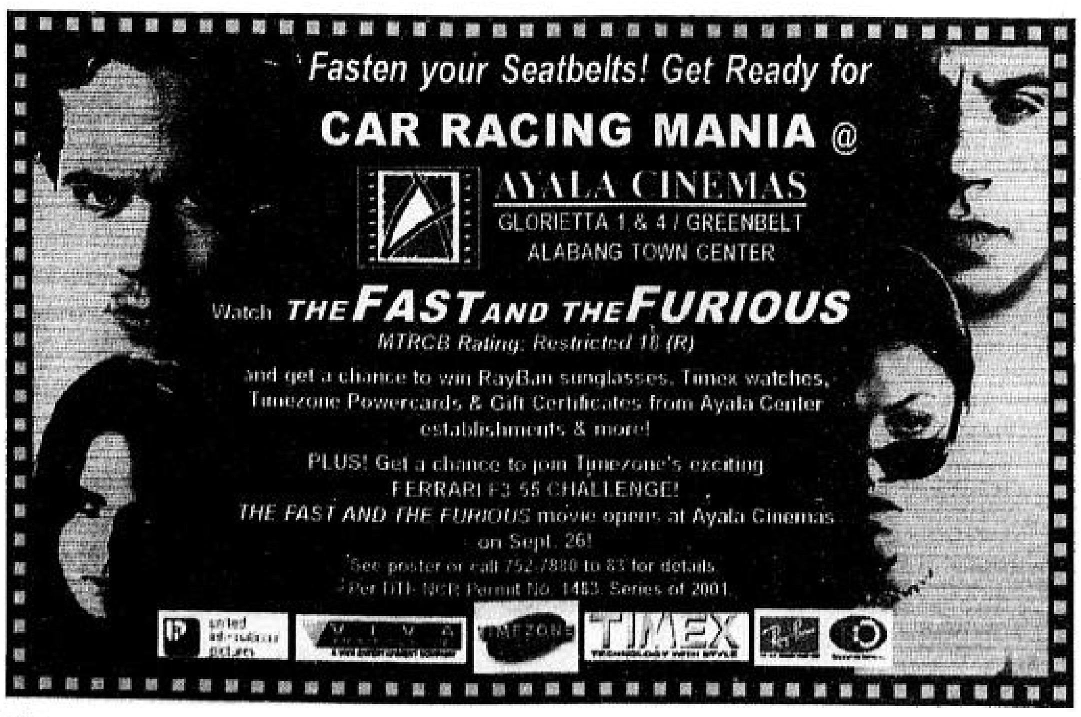

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See poster or call 752-7880 to 83 for details.

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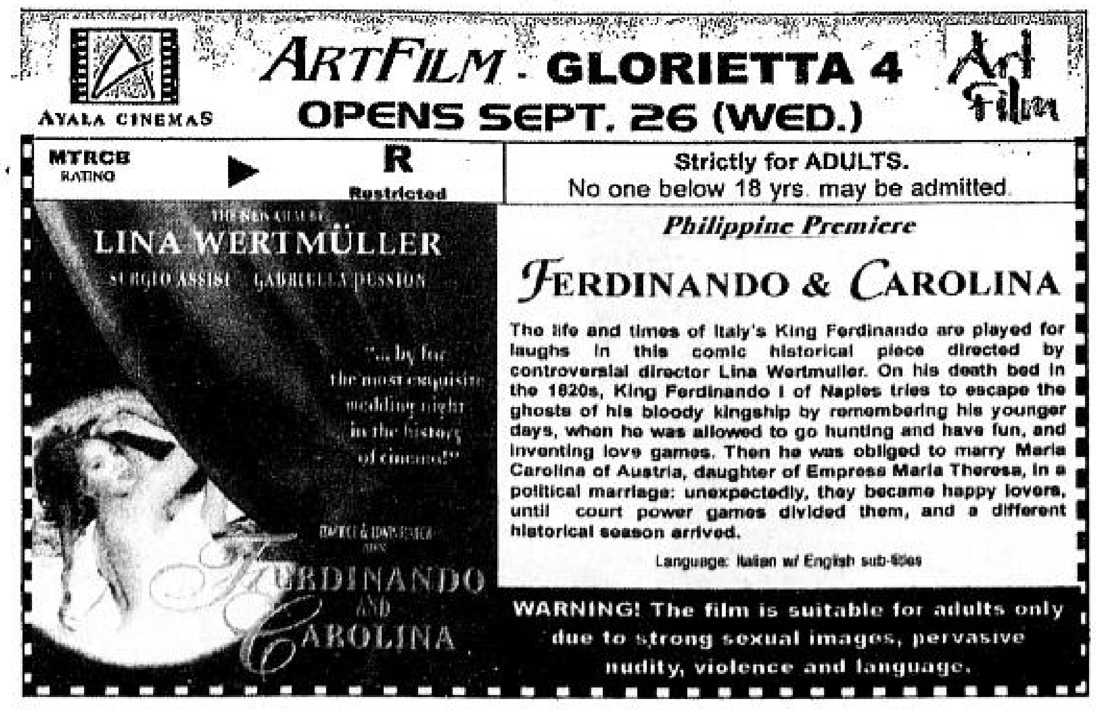

AYALA CINEMAS ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4 OPENS SEPT. 26 (WED.)

MTRCB RATING R Restricted Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

LINA WERTMÜLLER

Philippine Premiere

FERDINANDO & CAROLINA

The life and times of Italy's King Ferdinando are played for laughs in this comic historical piece directed by controversial director Lina Wertmuller. On his death bed in the 1820s, King Ferdinando I of Naples tries to escape the ghosts of his bloody kingship by remembering his younger days, when he was allowed to go hunting and have fun, and inventing love games. Then he was obliged to marry Maria Carolina of Austria, daughter of Empress Maria Theresa, in a political marriage: unexpectedly, they became happy lovers, until court power games divided them, and a different historical season arrived.

Language: Italian w/ English sub-titles

WARNING! The film is suitable for adults only due to strong sexual images, pervasive nudity, violence and language.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

NO 'ROSEBUD' MOVIE

'My story has no ending yet' says Ong

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN AND KATHY I. NAVARRO,
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROSEBUD

IF YOU'RE hoping to watch sexy star Rosanna Roces portray the "foxy, wily, beautiful" ex-agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, you are in for a disappointment.

Ong dropped a "bombshell" during a forum in Cebu City on Monday when she said she did not want her life story to be made into a movie.

"It is not in my agenda to turn my life's story into a movie," she said in Filipino.

She clarified that she has not talked to any producers about a movie based on her life.

She has two reasons for not wanting a true-to-life movie about her. One reason is that her life story does not have an ending yet. Another reason is that the people she implicated in her exposés could easily stop the showing of the film by going to court.

But Ong is not shutting the door to offers to make a movie out of her life story.

She said she might later allow producers to make a movie about her once the cases she has filed against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and other police officers are resolved.

Ong said she earlier talked to Viva Films boss Vic del Rosario about the possibility of a movie based on her life, although no terms were finalized.

If the movie would focus on her exploits as an undercover agent of the Narcotics Command, she wanted Vilma Santos to portray her, Ong said.

But she said she would prefer Roces to portray her if the movie would be about her affair with Supt. John Campos, her handler-turned-lover whom she later also implicated in illegal activities.

Ong picked action star Cesar Montano to play the role of Campos.

But she explained that she made those earlier statements to satisfy people's curiosity.

During the Cebu City forum, Ong was asked if she would be interested in portraying herself in her own film-bio.

"Acting is not my line," she replied. "I have no experience. It is not my cup of tea."

Although her life's story may not be turned into a movie, Ong is still a celebrity in the eyes of many Cebuanos.

During her two-day visit to Cebu, people came up to her to either shake her hand or to have their photos taken with her.

Ong came to Cebu to speak before the members of the Rotary Club of Cebu Uptown at the Waterfront Hotel in Barangay Lahug.

During her speech, Ong said she would drop a bombshell on Sept. 23, when the Senate resumes its hearings on Lacson's alleged crimes.

She refused to give details, only saying she would present evidence to the three Senate committees that would directly link Lacson to drug trafficking and kidnapping.

"You will see how I will be able to prove with evidence and link (Lacson) as the mastermind of everything," she said. "I'll make sure you will be ashamed of (Lacson) and I'll make sure you will remove him as a member."

After her speech, Rotary officials and members approached Ong and expressed support for her crusade against narco-politics.

On Tuesday, Ong was the guest at a forum sponsored by the Sugbuanong Kumentaristang Nagpakabana (Sukna) at the Café Adriatico on Ramos Street in Cebu City.

The function room was full of people, all eager to see Ong in person. Members of militant groups were in the forum to express support for her crusade.

"She is actually cute in person," a member of a militant group said in Cebuano upon seeing Ong.

Another spectator could not help but notice Ong's make-up.

"Her make-up was not as thick as it appeared on television," the woman said.

After the forum, many people, including reporters and members of militant groups, went up to Ong to have their pictures taken with her.

Many people followed her when she went to radio station dyLA in Pier 1 for a live interview about 11:30 a.m.

Inside the announcer's booth, radio anchor Jun Tagalog asked Ong to move her seat around so she could face her fans who were crammed inside the technician's booth.

Like a true celebrity, Ong obliged, smiling and waving at her "fans."

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

Kris Aquino's column will be back on Friday--Ed

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Delay in laundering law seen to hurt exporters

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is worried that Philippine exporters and importers would have to pay in cash for all their international transactions as it expects all US banks to cut their links with Philippine banks if Congress fails to pass a law against money laundering before the end of this month.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said that all American banks were likely to follow the lead of First Union Bank (FUB) of Delaware, which would discontinue correspondent relationships with banks located in countries that have not complied with the Financial Action Task Force's Sept. 30 deadline for the enactment of an anti-money-laundering law.

Roxas said this would force exporters and importers to pay cash for their raw materials and finished products instead of the normal, hassle-free bank-to-bank transaction.

He admitted that the DTI has yet to create contingency measures to avert this anticipated financial disarray. Congress is currently in recess and the earliest it could pass a bill is on Oct. 15 this year.

He said the move of FUB of Delaware was integral to the smooth processing of financial transactions because it has to clear the checks issued by Philippine banks first before the goods from the US were shipped to the country.

Traders had told the DTI of their concerns on serious delays in their operations immediately after the FUB of Delaware informed its 12 correspondent banks in the Philippines (including Bank of the Philippine Islands) of its plan to demand more information on the identity of depositors and the nature of their transactions.

Roxas said Philippine exporters and importers could ill-afford to be hobbled by additional paperwork on their transactions at this time when all their attention should be focused on keeping their business running amid the gloomy forecast of a further drop in demand due to low consumer confidence.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. had previously urged Malacañang and Congress to push for the immediate passage of a bill toughening up the country's laws against money laundering. Amcham said this legislation was urgently required to maintain international standards for transparency within its banking system.

The DTI is projecting exports to drop by at least 10 percent as the simultaneous economic slump in the world's largest economies—the United States and Japan—is likely to deepen further following the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Roxas said the DTI was revising its initial estimate of flat export growth this year because of the disappointing results in the first seven months this

DELAY/ B6

T-bill yields seen to rise

Story on page B4

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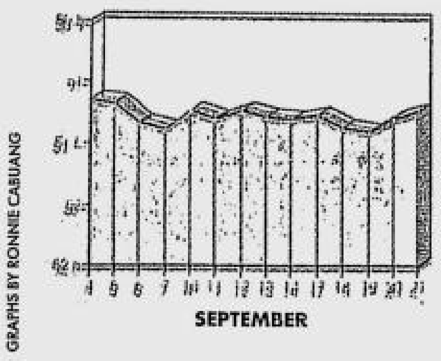

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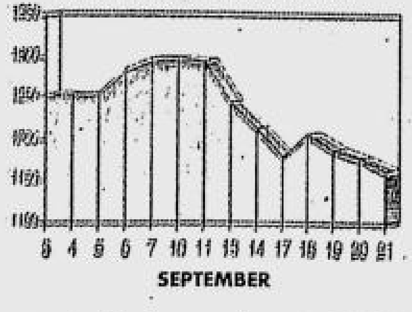

(See stock market report on Page B6)

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The business of skills

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan Bian

YOU can't have a business without people. And to be truly competitive, an organization can't rely on management alone; it needs to have highly motivated and well trained people at all levels. Companies in developed economies know this very well and they view the skills development of their workforce as a wise investment rather than an additional cost.

This kind of awareness is not so widespread in our economy as one would wish, which is why the Philippine National skills Competition came into existence. This week-long competition, held by Tesda every two years, is aimed at recognizing the excellence of young industry skilled workers and graduates of technical vocational schools and training centers. It also aims to develop a more competitive Filipino workforce, processing world-class skills, work values and attitudes.

The 10th Philippine National Skills Competition (PNSC), the culmination of a series of local, provincial, sectoral and regional contests, has just opened in Davao City. It has drawn workers from all over the country who are vying for the honor to represent the flag in the Asean Skills Competitions and other international events. One of the highlights of the PNSC is the "Abilympics" for "differently abled" persons, the winners of which will participate in the Abilympics International India 2003.

Most of the skills celebrated in the competition are those that provide us with goods and services that we usually take for granted. These skills include food processing, plumbing, masonry, cookery, restaurant services, billboard advertising and cake decoration. We must remember, however, that the majority of the Mindanaoans and, indeed, most Filipinos are engaged in humble occupations like these. By doing so, these people make vital contribution to the economy.

I was glad to see that the competition program includes contests in webpage design, CADD, and other computer skills. The Philippines, because of its English-based educational curriculum and strong IT education sector, is well placed to become one of Asia's information technology hubs.

In Mindanao, a number of entrepreneurs are already successfully providing IT services to firms in Europe, the United States and Asia.

The PNSC does not simply showcase the excellence of skilled workers in a setting. It provides technical and vocational training schools with an objective of assessing the quality of their graduates. Quite a number of these institutions have already realized this and are working hard to produce future champs in the youth category (below 18 years).

A growing number of employers are encouraging top workers to try out for the competition as well, in the open category. Having a champion skilled employee is good for building up the workforce's morale and the company's image. The PNSC is also a promising place in which to scout for new talents.

Hence in Mindanao, we have produced international competitions champions in Joel Malazarte, Michael Sabio and Jaedel Agripo. The PNSC in Davao City aims to entice more of them to hone their skills and join future competitions.

This event is also helping to transcend national boundaries and enhance our network within the revitalized East Asean Growth Area. By focusing on competitiveness, it is preparing our human resources for the tremendous challenges in a global economy. Tesda and the Federation of Technical Vocational Schools Association of Southern Mindanao, the principal organizers of the competition, are also using the contest in stimulating the exchange of vocational and technical training technologies between countries.

We hope that such an event will make our businessmen realize that skills, too, should be and must be one of their top concerns. I hold in high esteem the Tesda directorate led by director general Lucita Lazo and deputy director general Mila Hernandez who, through their sincere commitment, made sure that PNSC 2001 would push through this year, despite budgetary constraints. I also recognize the effort of Region XI—regional director Juanito Cueva and the dedication of the Davao Tesda Team.

I wish Filipinos would view champions of this skills competition the way they view basketball stars. We see our hard court heroes on TV, in commercials—even in the Senate. The youth idolize them. I wish that greater recognition would go to our skilled workers whose abilities and desire for excellence are oftentimes undervalued. In the Philippine National Skills Competition, they will have their shining moment.

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council.)

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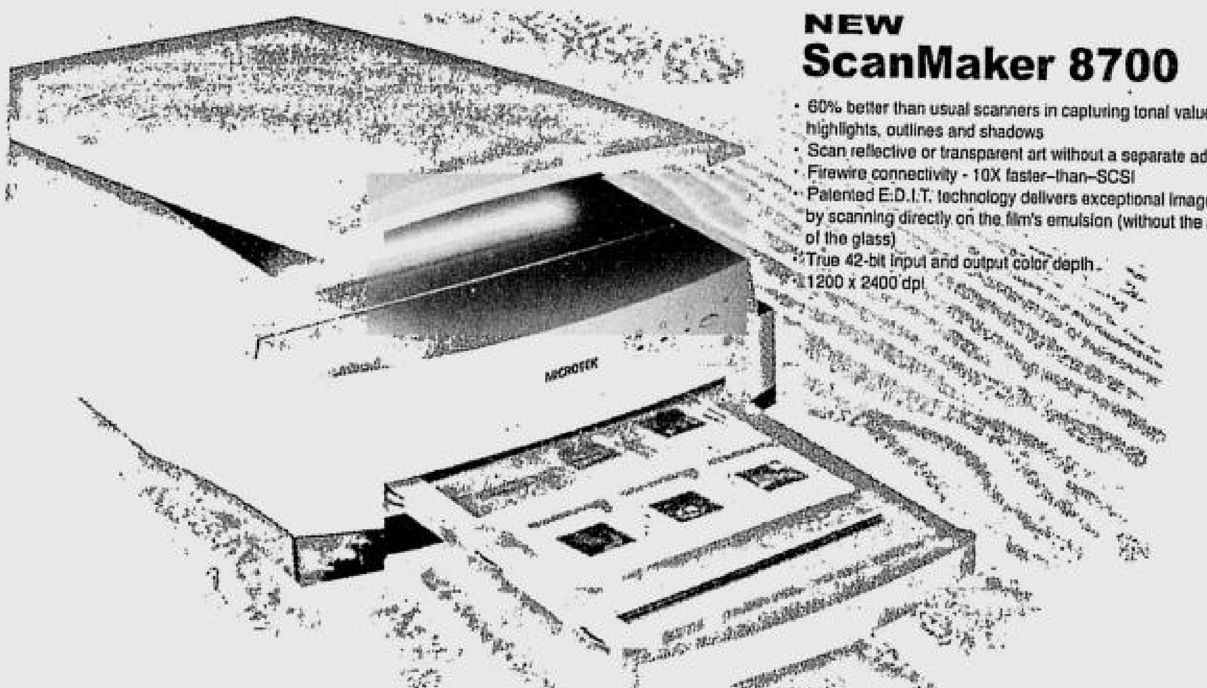

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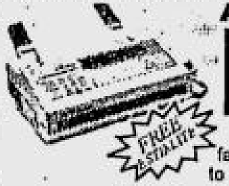

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Digitel given up to Sept. 28 to pay Globe

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc. has given Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc. up to Sept. 28 to settle its obligations worth P250.69 million, representing the company's unpaid access charges since September 1999.

"We'll call for the isolation of Digitel from other carriers if it will not pay," Globe assistant vice president for regulatory matters Froilan Castelo said in a hearing at the National Telecommunications Commission Friday.

The Gokongwei-owned telecom firm, however, said it did not owe Globe that much money. The company said its obligations amounted to only P162.05 million.

Castelo, in an earlier interview, said Digitel should have paid Globe even the uncontested amount to show its intention to settle part of its debts, like what other carriers did.

He, however, added that "Digitel has made no sincere move to pay even the uncontested amount."

Digitel's regulatory affairs manager Ricardo Dira said Digitel was "always willing to pay whatever amount was due as long as this was fair and reasonable."

Castelo had proposed a settlement scheme that would give Digitel a discount of over P44.56 million, bringing the amount due to only P206.13 million.

However, Digitel could only avail itself of this discounted rate if it would settle its debt in full on or before the Sept. 28 deadline. Otherwise, the amount will revert to the original level.

Dira asked for an extension of the deadline to Oct. 4 but Globe disagreed.

Castelo said Globe's offer was already very generous considering that Digitel has not paid a single centavo since 1999.

Dira stressed that Digitel was willing to pay, but said that the revenue sharing scheme between the cellular service provider and the landline provider was deemed unfair.

RP sees continued flow of Japan ODA

By Doris C. Dumlao

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said he was confident that Japan's recent decision to cut its global official development assistance (ODA) would not hamper the flow of these cheap funds to the country.

In an interview, Canlas said that the Prime Minister of Japan had in fact expressed continuing commitment to the Philippines during President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent trip to Tokyo.

As the Philippines was able to demonstrate improvements in the disbursement of ODA funds, Canlas said Japan's belt-tightening would not necessarily choke funds for the country.

Japan is the country's biggest bilateral donor.

"The Japanese government is cutting spending by 10 percent but the cut is for its global ODA, which means that some countries will get less. But given the Philippines' recent ODA performance, it is highly likely that the levels for us will be maintained or even increased," Canlas said.

"Also, I don't think that the major donor countries will cut their ODA," Canlas said.

He said the country's disbursement rate—or the amount used compared with the amount availed of—has now reached an all-time high of 94 percent from the 92-percent peak in 1994 during the Ramos administration.

Last week, the donor community, after a briefing with Philippine economic managers, expressed support for the country's medium-term economic program.

Canlas also said that the disruptions caused by the recent terrorist attacks on the United States would not cut down the support of the donor community, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to the Philippines.

For its part, the government has mapped out measures to cushion the impact on the country's fragile growth momentum of the terrorist attacks.

For instance, Canlas said the Philippines would propose a new oil sourcing arrangement within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations during the next Asean meeting in Brunei.

The proposal would seek some form of a bilateral arrangement with oil-producing Asean countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei to stabilize the region's oil supply.

Canlas said the government acknowledged that reduced oil supply would be the biggest consequence once the conflict arising from the attacks against the US' seat of financial and military power escalated into another war in the oil-rich Middle East region.

"We're trying to put on maximum security alert on oil supply and we'll discuss this with the oil producing countries in Asean, possibly through some government-to-government arrangements," Canlas said.

He said any threat of oil supply bottlenecks would exert pressure on inflation and, in turn, on domestic interest rates.

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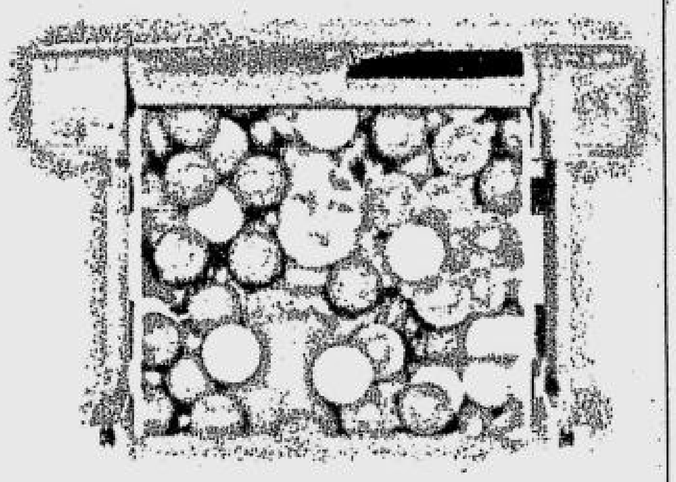

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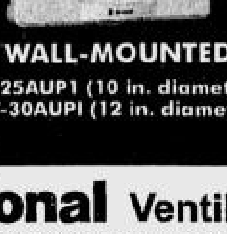

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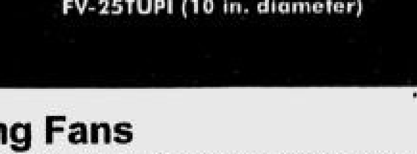

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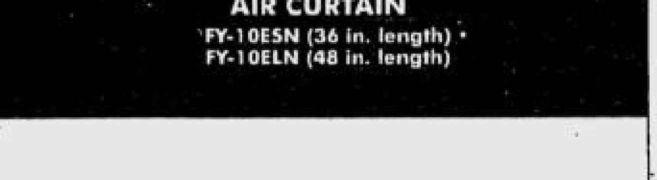

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Atlas Mining readies nickel-mining project

By Christine A. Gaylican

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. is developing a multibillion-peso nickel mining project in Palawan.

Atlas said in a company document obtained Friday that the Barong nickel project in Palawan is a "well-advanced prospect with significant drilling and test pit work having already taken place."

With the Barong nickel project, Atlas said it was considering "various alternatives including (the) sale of shipping grade (ore) material to certain Far East markets."

Atlas said it also planned to develop a high pressure acid leach system to process the lower nickel grade but high cobalt ores at an annual rate of more than 50 million pounds of nickel.

Alakor Corp., a company of National Bookstore owner Alfredo Ramos that now owns 60 percent of Atlas, has aggressively been reviving the mining firm.

It is finalizing a prospectus, incorporating the Palawan nickel project and the reopening of the Toledo copper mine in tandem with its planned listing in the capital markets of Australia and United Kingdom.

"It would be an advantage for Atlas to list at the Australian and London Stock Exchanges because they are both mining oriented and will provide a greater level of share price support compared to the Philippine Stock Exchange," a source at the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences explained.

Atlas said its first equity raising activity in the ASX and the LSX would relieve Alakor of its maintenance-funding burden as provided under the debt-for-equity swap arrangement when it took over from the Soriano group.

WEEKLY AUCTION

T-bill yields seen to rise

By Clarissa S. Batino

A DISAPPOINTED fixed-income market is expected to push up bids during the treasury bill auction today after last week's decision of the central bank not to cut overnight rates and the government's announcement of a higher-than-programmed budget deficit as of August.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza has acknowledged that banks might attempt to drive up rates today by as much as 30 basis points across the board.

But Edeza cautioned the market against pushing up treasury bill yields unreasonably because the government's healthy cash position could afford it to reject bids.

"An increase of five to 10 basis points is acceptable. But if they try to bring it up to 30 basis points, they can just keep their money because we will reject their offers," Edeza said.

Fixed-income traders said treasury bill rates should go up by about 30 points today, particularly on longer-dated debt notes whose yields had slid significantly in previous weeks.

During last Monday's auction, the yield of the 91-day treasury bill rate inched up slightly by 1.3 points to 9.467 percent while the rate of the six-month treasury bills fell by 17.4 points to 11.629 percent and the one-year debt notes slid by 45.6 points to 12.544 percent.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills and another P3 billion from the sale of treasury bonds.

Treasury bill yields track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates while the 91-day benchmark is used by banks in pricing their loans.

The fixed-income market was expecting the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to cut overnight rates last Tuesday following the Federal Reserve's decision to cut US rates by half-a-percentage point.

The move of the US, which was followed by European and several Asian central banks, was ignored by the BSP's policy-making board because of worries about the inflation that could spike as a result of rising crude oil prices and a possible wage increase.

Traders said the market was very disappointed with the reaction of the Bangko Sentral to the cuts made by central banks across the globe. They felt the BSP was focusing too much on inflation and very little on economic growth.

What could boost the traders resolve to bid up treasury bill rates was last week's government announcement of a higher-than-programmed deficit in the first eight months of the year to P99.53 billion.

Edeza, however, noted that had the government chose to book more than P5 billion in delayed payments and receivables for August, the budget gap would have been within or even lower than the eight-month target of P96.64 billion.

"The government was within its target so the market should not interpret it that we are in dire need of funds because we can afford to reject their bids," Edeza warned.

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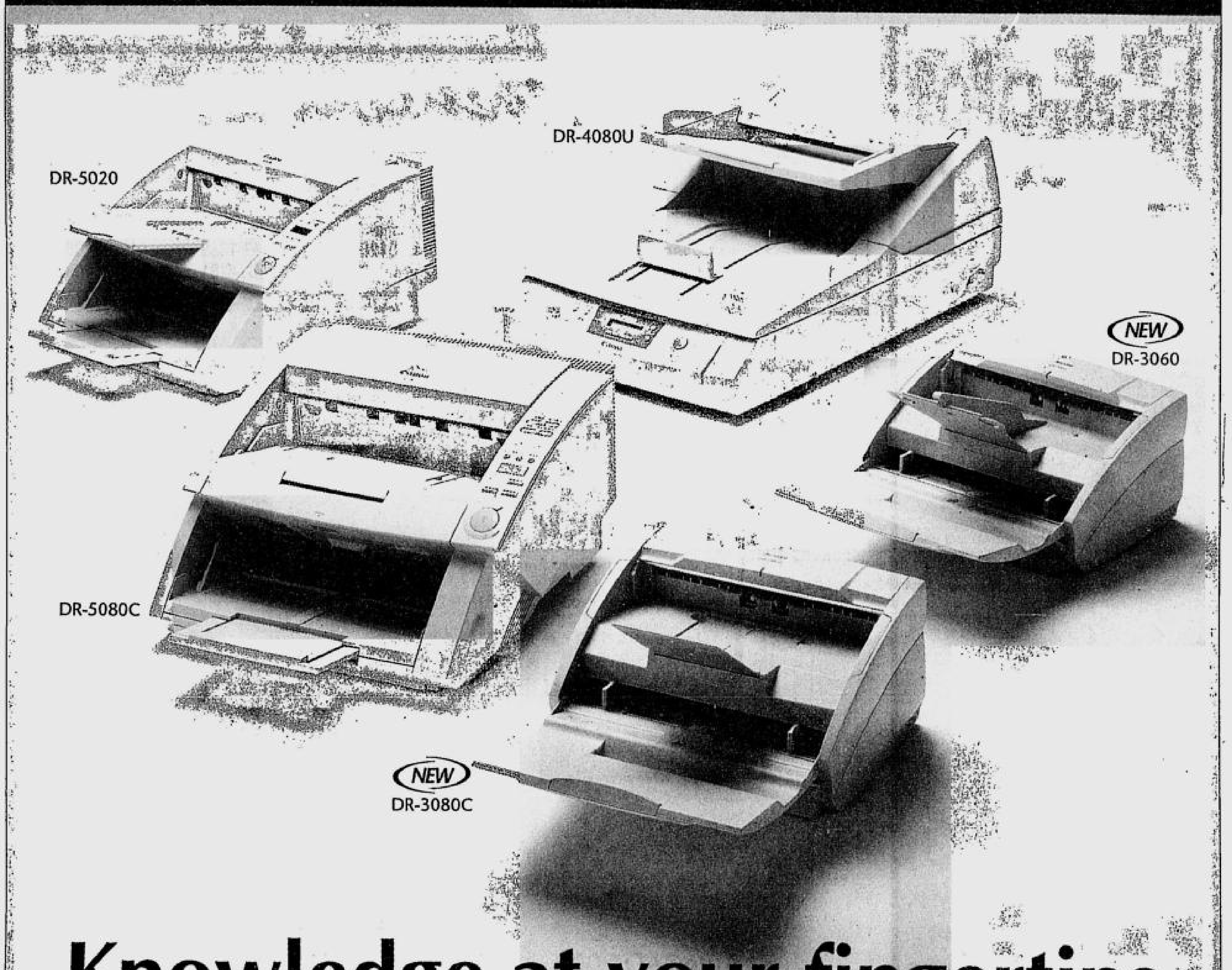

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SEC affirms RFM, Cosmos findings ...

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has affirmed the decision of the Philippine Stock Exchange to clear the Concepcion family's RFM Corp. and Cosmos Bottling Corp. of insider trading and price manipulation charges lodged by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco.

The PSE earlier junked Syjuco's petition to suspend the trading of RFM and Cosmos shares for 15 days, saying its compliance and surveillance group had conducted its own investigation before and found no evidence of any violation.

In a letter to Syjuco last week, SEC Commissioner Joselia J. Poblador said the rise in the share prices of Cosmos and RFM was not necessarily a result of any price manipulation.

On the contrary, she said, the performance of the said stocks might be attributed to RFM and Cosmos' consistent updates to the PSE and SEC on the progress of its discussions with parties interested in acquiring the soft drink unit.

"It can be reasonably observed that the rise in the volume/price of shares of Cosmos could very well be explained by the availability of information to the public, made possible by the full public disclosures preceding the movements in share volume/price," the SEC commissioner said.

"We do not have any sufficient reason to ignore the material sequence of public disclosures reported widely and almost daily in national newspapers since June 2001, by the RFM-Cosmos group, the same having occurred earlier than, rather than after, the increases in the volume of transactions and price of shares of Cosmos," the SEC said.

Regarding Syjuco's allegations that RFM and Cosmos tried to artificially prop up the share prices by buying their own stocks through dummy corporations, the SEC said it would require "verified evidence" rather than just allegations as a basis for any investigation.

The SEC noted that "the list of shareholders representing about 18 percent public shareholding provided to us by Cosmos does not bear out the allegation."

Syjuco claimed that the Concepcions owned half of this 18 percent public float which was allegedly used to influence the price movement of the shares.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court last week also junked a new petition filed by Syjuco for a temporary restraint order against the sale of shares held by RFM in Cosmos.

As such, RFM said there was now no legal impediment for RFM to proceed with the sale of its Cosmos shares to San Miguel Corp., which had earmarked P15 billion for 100 percent of the soft drink unit, including a tender offer for the 18-percent public float.

But Syjuco earlier obtained a preliminary injunction covering the sale by Cosmos of the assets his family previously owned, such as the Jaz Cola soft drink brand which was among those sold to Cosmos five years ago.

With the Cosmos issue still pending in court, Syjuco sought to involve the mother company, RFM, because it was the entity selling the shareholdings in Cosmos.

Syjuco claimed his family had not been compensated adequately for the deal that transferred control of Jaz Cola Philippines to Cosmos.

...but will probe exchange's chair

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission will investigate Philippine Stock Exchange chair Felipe Yap for possible insider trading following a formal complaint filed by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco Jr.

SEC Associate Commissioner Joselia Poblador told reporters Friday that the complaint paved the way for the corporate watchdog to look further into Syjuco's allegations that Yap was privy to insider information when the exchange official bought a large amount of Cosmos Bottling Corp. shares last July 25.

On that day, Cosmos parent company RFM Corp. denied that it had reached an agreement on the purchase structure of Cosmos with any buyer, including San Miguel Corp. However, on the next day, RFM publicly revealed that it had approved and signed a memorandum of agreement with SMC for the sale of an 82.3-percent stake in the soft drink unit.

In a letter to Syjuco, Poblador said that the SEC has directed its compliance and enforcement department director and assistant director to start the investigation once the government agency received the PSE's report on the matter or should the commission find the exchange had failed to act on the issue.

Poblador said another investigation would also be conducted on Syjuco's charges that the group of Cosmos RFM resorted to illegal insider trading and stock price manipulation to prevent the free fall of their stocks when word of Syjuco's suit against the soft drink maker came out.

"All of such allegations, as you very well know, must be subject to due process, (that is,) notice and hearing of all parties to the issue, before any conclusion can be reached. As our Circular No. 4 provides, this is a matter for investigation," Poblador noted.

Muslim financial terrorists

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

LAST week, the Bangko Sentral ran an ad in this section warning the public about a Sri Lankan con artist and his local Muslim cohorts passing themselves off as the Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines or Islamic Bank.

The advertisement was but the latest of innumerable and often bumbling government attempts to stamp out the financial impostors since 1992, when the fake Islamic Bank filed a suit that went all the way to the Court of Appeals against the legitimate and government-owned Islamic Bank.

The impostor group even had the audacity to implead then Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo and, at one point, filed a "notice before suit" against the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas!

The farce and waste of government time and taxpayers' money had been compounded when the Securities and Exchange Commission, through sheer negligence or stupidity, handed not one but two written legal opinions that gave the impostors a veneer of legality.

In answer to a written query from the fake group, Assistant SEC Commissioner Merle Manuel in July 1993 wrote the Islamic Bank a pro-forma answer confirming that the bank was indeed "deemed registered and duly authorized to operate."

With the Manuel letter, the fake group now had an official SEC communication addressed to "Abdel Aziz Dimapunong" as "chairman and chief executive officer" of the Islamic Bank.

The SEC error was compounded by another official error when, in September 1993, Director Eugenio Reyes of the SEC Brokers and Exchanges Department, again in an answer to an inquiry from Dimapunong, "confirm(ed) that any security to be issued by the ... Bank is exempted from the registration requirements ... of the Revised Securities Act."

Armed with these twin communications from the SEC, the Taguig-based fake bank then issued millions of "stock certificates" to thousands of unsuspecting fellow Muslims in the Muslim villages in Taguig, Quiapo, Tandang Sora, and in large swathes of Mindanao.

(For more details on how the fake Islamic Bank, and its Sri Lankan "president," Akam Ashroof Gaffoor/Abdul Gaffoor Ashroof, wormed their way into the Makati circles, refer to Cocktales, August 2000 columns, copies of which may be retrieved from the INQUIRER website.)

Sky's limit

ATOM Henares has only himself to blame for the bad signals that his UHF Channel 37 has been encountering from its present channel assignment in SkyCable, this according to SkyCable spokesperson Boo Chanco.

"Our present system has limited channel capacity," Chanco said, in reaction to a Sept. 21 Cocktales item. "We are still in the process of upgrading and until then (our capacity) is 60 channels, max."

"Atom was told about this and was advised to hold off his plans until about the end of 2002 to 2003," the SkyCable spokesperson said. "But he insisted and so was accommodated with full warning about channel quality."

The accommodation had been made in spite of the free UHF channel, which competes with SkyCable's MYX music channel, running only from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Incidentally, SkyCable channel assignment is handled by Atom's sister, Juno Henares-Chuidian, as head of programs acquisition.

"So how can the Lopezes now be accused of using monopoly powers against him?" the SkyCable spokesperson said.

Atom Henares' beef, we understand, is that SkyCable prefers to give space to a Russian channel than a homegrown rock channel like his when the only significant Russian concentration in the country are the lissome ladies that used to hang around in Makati's Giraffe and the can-can group in Clark's Mimosa.

But even those two groups have now moved to better markets overseas.

Plaza's dead end

THE NEARLY four-decades old partnership of the Plaza Group and the Ayalas has reached a literal and figurative dead end.

The Plaza, the catering group that owns the Plaza building that adjoins Greenbelt, is suing Ayala Land for damages after the Makati landlord closed off the parking lot and access to the building.

Milagros "Millie" Reyes, whose family built the Greenbelt annex despite the debt crisis in the '80s, said she was appalled when Ayala Land executives gave them only 12 days notice last year about the impending closure of the service road and parking lot.

Worse, Ayala Land did not even bother to offer alternative parking to compensate the building's tenants and shop owners for all the inconvenience and reduced business.

Because the building had become a shopping Siberia, Greenwich closed down its previously top-selling branch and pre-terminated its lease last month.

The Healthway clinic, which spent nearly P2 million to install an outside elevator to its new branch, has been bleeding from lack of business since the redevelopment.

At one point, the Lebanese owner of the Prince of Wales wanted to declare jihad on the Spanish landlords and, according to the scuttlebutt, even threatened to take Ayala Land managers Rowena Tomeldan and Miriam Katigbak as POWs in the pub.

The positive thing that can be said about the Greenbelt redevelopment is that, for once, the Ayalas are converting car parks into parks, not the other way around.

On Aguirre links

SUPREME Court Justice Artemio Panganiban wrote to say that his reported links to Banco Filipino (Cocktales, Sept. 19, 2001) ended upon his appointment to the Supreme Court.

Panganiban was the main counsel for the bank when it was still fighting its government-ordered closure, a legal battle that went all the way to the Supreme Court.

"While (the late) Mr. Tomas Aguirre had retained my counsel, I have never been a lawyer or associate or friend of his son, Mr. Bobby Aguirre, as well as with any of the latter's companies," the high court justice said.

"I am not and have never been privy to any matter or information or controversy involving him, his sister, or any other relative or business activity."

The same line was, incidentally, forwarded to us by Makati Rep. and Today publisher Teodoro Locsin Jr. through an intermediary to explain Locsin's previous engagement with the Banco Filipino group.

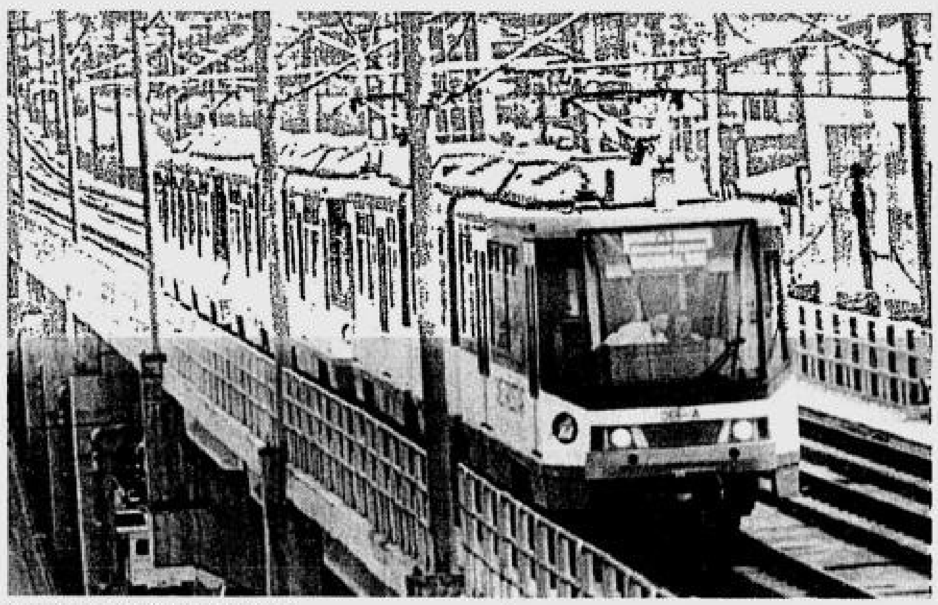
Heard through the grapevine

WHILE nobody in Malacañang and the PCGG are looking, the Erap holdover directors in the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. sold last month the French-made company helicopter to a company holding office in the *bodega* district of Pasay City.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

MRTC agrees to lower ROI, submits LRT link-up proposal

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO


COMMUTER train on Edsa.

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has convinced Metro Rail Transit Corp. to bring down to 9.5 percent from 15 percent the guaranteed return on its investments in MRT-3, saving the government some $55 million over the life of the contract.

A ranking finance official said the consortium led by Fil-Estate Management Inc. has agreed to bring down its guaranteed return from the project and was also amenable to converting the 25-year build-lease-transfer contract into a build-transfer deal, which would effectively transfer ownership of the MRTC assets to the government.

The MRTC consortium, the official said, would be paid with government securities such as treasury bills and bonds.

Taxes and which party should pay these were among the remaining issues snagging the conversion of the contract to a build-transfer deal, said another ranking finance official.

He said the government estimated that P20 billion in taxes need to be paid in the course of converting the deal from the 25-year BLT.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho earlier said that changing the contract would mean a lot of savings for the government.

"I would like to change the contract and make it advantageous to the government. From the current BLT arrangement, we can turn it to a BT wherein the government eventually owns the assets," he said.

He declined to say how the current negotiations would affect the plan of the MRTC consortium to undertake the 5-kilometer expansion of MRT-3 from North Edsa to Monumento and link it with the LRT-1 that runs through Baclaran.

But Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said that the extension of the MRTC would follow the new contract that the finance department would finalize with the consortium.

"When these two railway systems are connected together," Alvarez said, "they will form a complete, electric-powered transportation loop around Metro Manila, which will greatly benefit the riders of public utility vehicles, who are the great majority of our commuting public."

A plan to finally link the LRT-1 and MRT-3 lines was submitted last week to Alvarez by MRTC.

It calls for a 5.2-kilometer stretch to be built up to the interconnection point at Monumento. The two railway systems currently intersect only at the Taft Avenue stations in Pasay City.

MRTC senior vice president Paul Daza said the technical and financial plan they submitted would use a build-transfer mechanism that would see completion of the link within about two years from the start of construction. Between Edsa MRT and LRT-1 are projected to handle between 600,000 and one million daily passengers once the interconnection is made.

The MRTC consortium counts as its members Ayala Land Inc., Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp., Greenfield Development Corp., Ramcar Inc., Allante Realty and Development Inc., and DBH Inc.

With the strength of a 25-year BLT contract sealed during the time of the Ramos administration, the government had guaranteed the consortium a 15-percent return on their equity of $190 million.

The government also guaranteed the MRTC's $465 million in loans to the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, the Japan Export-Import Bank, the Postal Bank of the Czech Republic, and the Czech Export Credit Agency, plus a group of local banks.

Gov't to raise $130M in loans for Napocor

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE HEAD of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. said Friday the national government would shoulder about $130 million in borrowings for National Power Corp.'s financing needs for the rest of the year.

Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said the amount accounted for part of the $530 million that the power firm needed to fund its operating expenses.

Napocor had earlier given the mandate to US-based investment firm Bear Stearns to arrange a $400-million placement.

The National Treasury also issued three-month bonds worth P3 billion to bridge-finance Napocor's operating needs and other projects.

Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. earlier said that Congress' subcommittee on appropriations had approved a 43-percent increase Napocor's budget for 2002, the same year when its privatization starts.

Perez said Napocor's budget went up to P232.4-billion compared to this year's P162.5 billion.

The secretary said the increase in budget covered costs of the gas-fired Ilijan power plant, inter-island transmission projects, rehabilitation of the Tiwi-Makban geothermal complex and debt servicing.

In August, Perez said Napocor needed to raise between $530 million and $550 million to cover for its financing needs for the rest of the year.

Perez, who is also vice chair of Napocor, explained that the power firm could directly borrow its funding needs with a government guarantee, or acquire these from the national government.

The secretary said the amount did not have to come from a single source and that it could be raised through several loan facilities.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho said the level of Napocor's financial needs this year could go up to "a little more than $500 million," depending on how the state-run firm could dispose of its assets and postpone some of its payables.

Camacho, who is chair of Napocor, also said the national govenment could raise as much as 60 percent of Napocor's borrowing requirements but that the firm should raise the rest of the amount.

TARIFF PROTECTION

RP sugar sector gets reprieve

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (Afta) Council has agreed in principle to allow the Philippines and Indonesia to defer tariff cuts on sugar imports up to 2010 despite stiff opposition from Thailand.

The government's decision to further coddle the domestic sugar industry for the next several years despite decades of protection could prove costly for other domestic industries whose products could be sacrificed to appease Thailand.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II reported that the move, endorsed by the Asean Economic Ministers during their meeting in Hanoi, would allow the Philippines to protect its domestic sugar industry with high tariff walls until 2010 when its duties should be no more than 5 percent.

Based on a commitment in Afta, the Philippines was scheduled to phase down the 50-percent duty on sugar imports starting 2003 to a maximum of 5 percent by 2010.

Roxas admitted that the Philippines and Indonesia had a tough time convincing their peers in the Afta council to give their domestic sugar industries more time to improve their operations before allowing competing imports to come in at lower duties. He said that eventually, most of the members sympathized with the Philippine position.

Asean countries can seek to delay the implementation of the tariff liberalization program of one of their commodities in Afta, the proposed regional trading block where all intratrade would be levied duties of no more than 5 percent starting 2002.

Thailand was the lone oppositor to the Philippines and Indonesia's sugar tariff petition because a delay would force it to wait longer before it could send its excess sugar to these countries. Thailand has emerged as a major supplier of sugar into the country with its substantially lower prices sought by large-scale sugar users such as soft drink makers and food processors.

Roxas said the Philippines would discuss its plans on sugar with Thailand in the coming months in order to secure final approval for the delay in the tariff cuts on this commodity.

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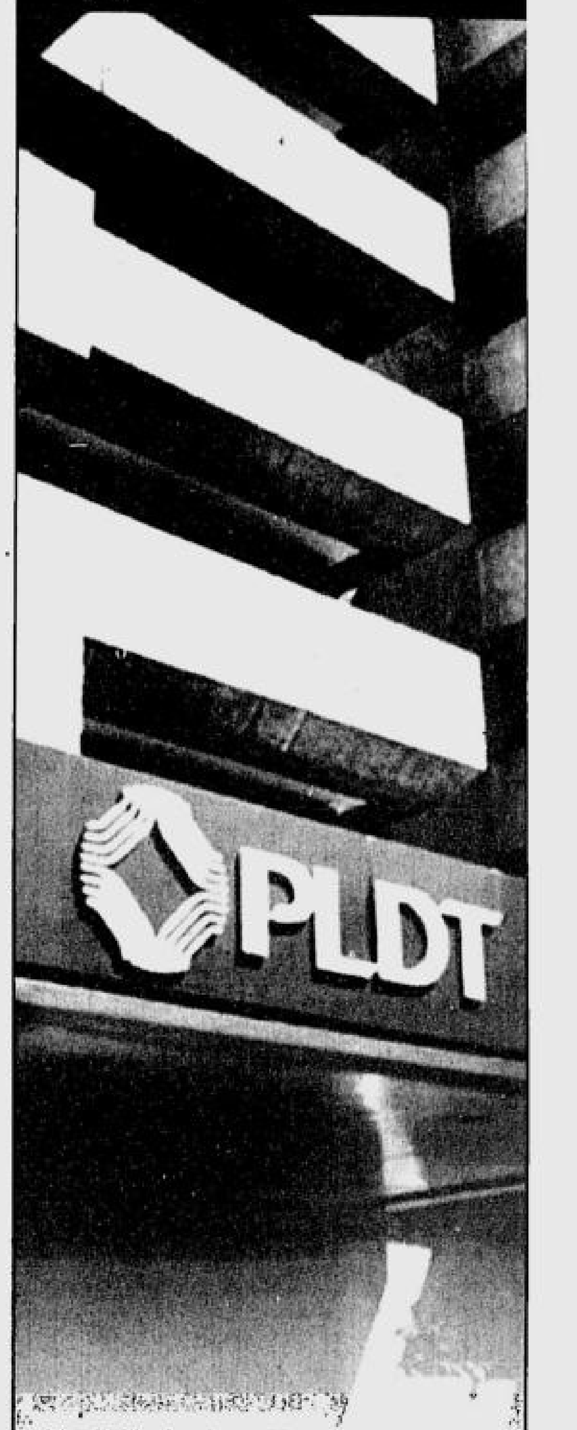

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Microsoft

Wall St. crash seen to dampen interest of local investors

By Doris C. Dumlao

WITH blue chip stocks in the United States facing their worst weekly beating since the Great Depression in the 1930s, bargain-hunters are still not expected to muster enough courage to pick up local stocks this week.

Analysts said that with the possible escalation of the tension in the United States into another war in the Middle East, investors would still prefer to stay on the sidelines.

This developed as the US markets closed Friday night (Manila time) with the Dow Jones industrial average slumping to 1,370 points and its weekly percentage loss overshadowing the October crashes of 1987 and 1929.

The Dow was down 14.26 percent for the week, second only to a 15.5-percent drop in 1933, while the Nasdaq and the S&P indices slumped 16 percent and 11.6 percent, respectively.

Despite the gloomy scenario, however, local analysts believed that some opportunities for slow accumulation might arise once the main Philippine Stock Exchange composite index hovered near the 1,100 support.

Last week, the Phisix shed 73.57 points or 5.95 percent, with many of the major index issues dropping to new lows as investors chose to stay liquid than leave too much exposure in local equities.

"Investors are unlikely to commit to this market at this time given the weakness in the US market. As a consequence, the market is likely to maintain its negative bias until such time as markets overseas, particularly those in the US, stabilize," BPI Securities vice president Spencer Yap said.

"Unfolding political events will continue to influence investment decisions in the coming weeks. Tensions remain high given that the US has still to take actions against the perpetrators of the New York attacks," Yap said.

He said the market would likely test the 1,100-to-1,500 range this week.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas, on the other hand, said that despite the bearish sentiment, the time to buy was drawing near as the market has hit oversold levels.

BPI Securities technical analyst Roberto Cano said: "With the market being oversold, there is a good chance that it may rebound as it touches the 1,100 support. This can be an opportunity to accumulate for a short-term trade," he said, noting that any uptick would likely be resisted at 1,170.

The next support level is near the low of 1,075 in 1998 during the Estrada regime.

"It might take awhile before traders shift their cautious approach in equities trading, until the US government provides detailed and unequivocal military or economic retaliatory measures against suspected terrorists," stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said.

2tradeasia.com agreed that the market was likely to trade between 1,100 and 1,150 this week and noted that the prudent approach would be to accumulate gradually on lows.

"Opportunities to gradually accumulate on dips might gain significance, depending on how leaders worldwide would detail their resolve to restore political order and economic stability. Opt for resilient counters," 2tradeasia.com said.

MARKET PLAY

Delay in laundering . . .

(From page B1)

year as well as forecasts of a further slowdown in the US and Japan. Roxas did not specify the DTI's new target except that exports would be at least 10 percent lower from last year's level.

From an original forecast of $38 billion in exports this year, the DTI expects exports to reach less than $34.2 billion. Exports in the first seven months this year plunged 10.8 percent to $18.5 billion from $20.85 billion during the same period last year.

The Philippines is particularly vulnerable to a recession in the US and Japanese economies because a substantial chunk of the country's exports are directly or indirectly shipped to these countries.

With the US going on an all-out war against terrorists and economic activity slowing down due to a steep plunge in consumer confidence, Americans were likely to cut back on their purchases of Philippine-made electronics products and apparel.

Aside from the twin economic downturns, the Philippines had to contend with a meltdown in the global electronics sector whose sales have fallen 25 percent off their peak in September last year. Electronics account for nearly two-thirds of the country's total exports.

The projected drop in exports is also expected to impact significantly on the broader economy as roughly half of the country's gross domestic product is made up of exports of goods and services.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, Sept. 21, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53.5	52.5	52.5	439,400
China Banking Corp.	550	550	550	550	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	25.5	25.5	25	25	87,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	204	207	204	206	56,580
Philippine National Bank	50	50.5	49	50.5	301,900
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	28	29	14,000
Security Bank Corp.	18	18.25	17.75	18.25	9,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	20	20	18.25	18.25	70,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1160	1165	1160	1165	5,170
Sun Life Financial Serv.	930	930	915	915	1,390
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	24.5	24.5	17,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	2,180,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630	640	630	640	4,110
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	270,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	485	485	480	480	45,120
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.024	18,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	28	28	27.5	28	23,400
Manila Electric Co. B	38.5	39	37.5	38	819,000
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.38	1,750,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.72	1.72	1.58	1.6	1,585,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	75,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	175,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	156,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24	25	24	25	31,900
Pancake House Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	50,000
RFM Corp.	2.1	2.14	2.06	2.06	1,156,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38	39	37.5	39	135,100
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50	49.5	50	279,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	212,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	861,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	500,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.7	0.66	0.7	40,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	256,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	60,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.2	1.12	1.16	2,871,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	770,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	120,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	26	25	25	160,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Ionics Inc.	9	9	8.8	8.8	13,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	843,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	2,110,000
Music Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.8	0.8	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	130,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	1,450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	5,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	33,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	700,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.74	160,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	70,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,000,000
Manila Jockey Club	19	19	19	19	900
Philippine Racing Club	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	24,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	24	24	28,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	10	10.25	10	10.25	24,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	470	470	470	470	432,000
Jollibee Warrants	12	12	12	12	20,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	4,000,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6	6	6	6	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.35	4.35	7,928,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	785,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	5,478,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	8,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.03	0.03	0.028	0.029	6,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,620,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	47,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	5,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.31	1,550,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0042	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,025,840	61,546,360.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	316,345,930	313,410,395.00
PRO	14,941,000	68,819,840.00
Mining	85,078,000	1,277,900.00
OIL	15,120,000	133,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	432,527,770	445,228,575.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	477.77	DOWN 8.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,634.61	DOWN 19.11
PRO	464.46	DOWN 8.28
Mining	1,159.26	DOWN 8.04
OIL	1.41	UP 0.05
All Shares Index	649.95	DOWN 10.99
Composite	1,162.85	DOWN 14.58

NO. OF ADVANCES: 14; NO. OF DECLINES: 64; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 23;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 101; NO. OF TRADES: 1,722

CURRENCIES

Sept 21, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.078167	1.000000	51.3730
Japan	Yen	0.009280	0.008607	0.4422
United Kingdom	Pound	1.581887	1.467200	75.3745
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138404	0.128370	6.5948
Switzerland	Franc	0.679889	0.630597	32.3957
Canada	Dollar	0.686206	0.636456	32.6967
Singapore	Dollar	0.620956	0.575937	29.5876
Australia	Dollar	0.531117	0.492611	25.3069
Bahrain	Dinar	2.860012	2.652661	136.2752
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.288280	0.267380	13.7361
Brunei	Dollar	0.619174	0.574284	29.5027
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000106	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024426	0.022655	1.1639
UAE	Dirham	0.293618	0.272331	13.9905
Korea	Won	0.000837	0.000776	0.0399
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.927500	47.6485
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.474223	24.3623
France	Franc	0.152450	0.141396	7.2639
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.420881	21.6219
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067404	3.4627
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022992	1.1812
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000479	0.0246
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.155994	8.0139
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004626	0.2377
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005574	0.2864
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022992	1.1812
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.177682	60.5011

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ALABANG "A"	1,000,000
BAGUIO CC	750,000
CALATAGAN "A"	110,000
CANLUBANG GC	865,000
LUISITA GC "A"	535,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	43M/45M
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,050,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	760,000
ORCHARD "A"	Call now
RIVIERA GCC "A" / "B"	Call now
ROCKWELL CLUB	585,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,820,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	850,000
VALLEY GOLF	270,000
WACK-WACK GOLF	Call now

Share Swapping: Please Call

CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	Call now
CC AT TAGAYTAY	390,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"	Call now
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	13,000,000
MANILA POLO	Call now
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
ORCHARD "A"	Call now
QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	Call now
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	760,000
VALLEY VERDE	170,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
EAGLERIDGE "A"	10,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,650,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,650,000
Baguio Country Club	-	600,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	80,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	115,000
Camp John Hay	-	330,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	1,930,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	220,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	300,000	350,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	400,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	15,000,000	16,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	750,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	110,000	150,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	75,000	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	150,000
Quezon City Sports Club	215,000	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	190,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,700,000	1,800,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,800,000	2,200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	220,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	850,000	1,000,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	175,000	200,000
Valley Golf	250,000	275,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	7,000,000	7,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	15,000
Canlubang	55,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	65,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	50,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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SELLING:

Alabang A/B	1.65M/1.8M
Baguio Country Club	725,000
Calatagan A/B	90,000/100,000
Camp John Hay Golf	315,000
Canlubang Golf	750,000
Canyon Woods	260,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	200,000
Club Filipino	250,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	390,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/500/500
Fontana A,B,C,D	Please call
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	240/250/440
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp	13M/16M
Manila Polo	2.9M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750,000/800,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	350,000/350,000
Metropolitan "A"	160M/180M
Mimosa Indiv./Corp.	200,000/350,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B	Please call
Mt. Malarayat C	600,000
Orchard "A"/B/C	240/350/400
Puerto Azul	140,000
Quezon City Sports	240,000
Rivera "A"/B/C	200/350/550
Rockwell Club	495,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1.7M/2.2M
Sherwood	175,000
Subic Yach (Indv.)/Corp.	240/400,000
Tagaytay Midlands	780,000
Tagaytay Highland/Club/Golf	390,000/850,000
Valle Verde CC/Corp.	180,000
Valley Golf	300,000
Wack Wack	7.2M

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	1.6M/1.8M
Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	300,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	200,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	350/450/600
Forest Hill "A"/B/C	210/250/400
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	12.5M/15M
Manila Polo	2.7M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750,000/780,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	300,000/300,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	Please call
Orchard "A"/B/C	240/350/400
Quezon City Sports	220,000
Rivera "A"/B/C	200,000
Royale Tagaytay/Punta Fuego	Please call
Sta. Elena A/B	Please call
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000
Tagaytay Highland/Club/Gol	380,000/850,000
Valle Verde CC	170,000/300,000
Valley Gol	250,000
Wack Wack	7M

Playing rights available Tagaytay Highlands & Midlands share, Lot, Condo, Spa & Lodge = Installment

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		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Please call	-
2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,900,000.00	-
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	760,000.00	-
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
5.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	-
7.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
8.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	135,000.00	-
9.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
10.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	390,000.00	-
11.	EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	500,000.00	-
12.	FOREST HILLS "A"	250,000.00	-
13.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	340,000.00	-
14.	MANILA POLO CLUB	Please call	Please call
15.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	Please call
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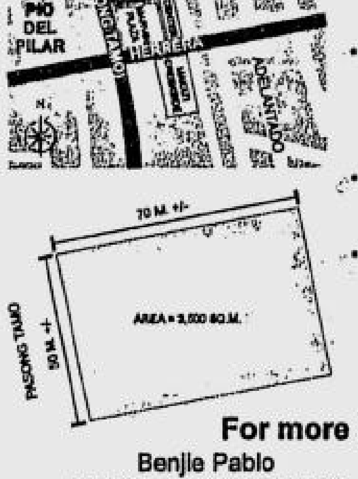

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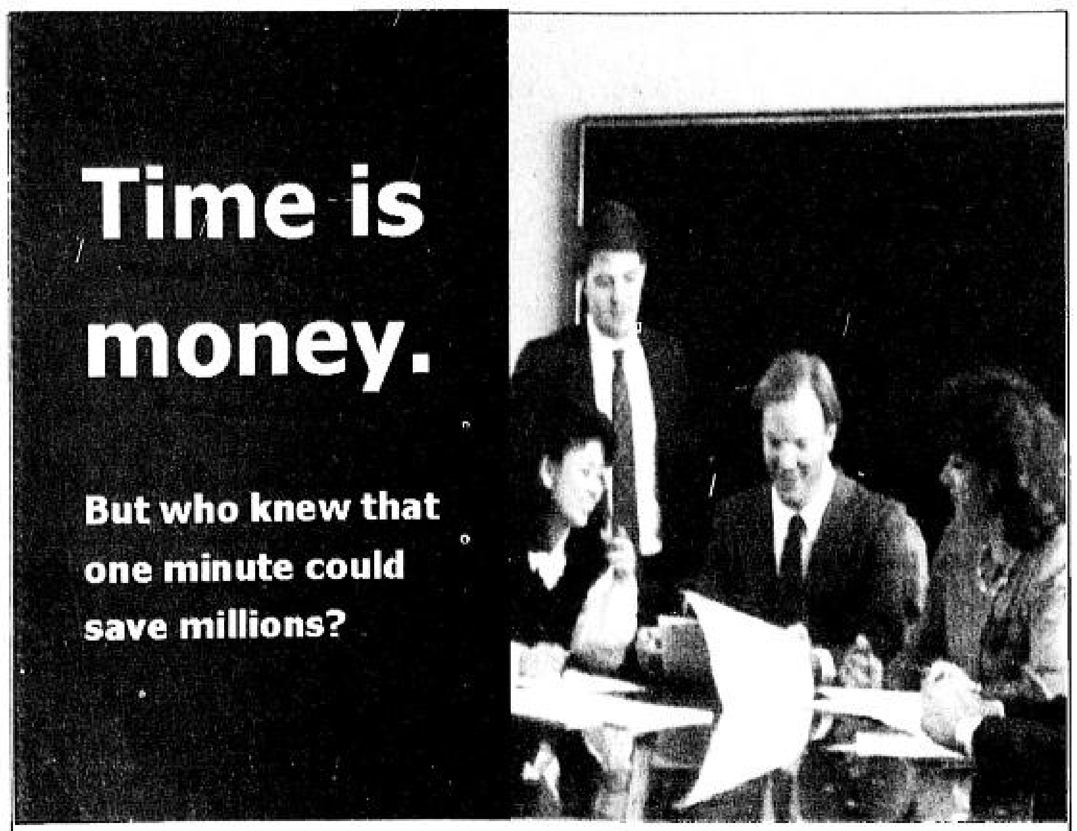

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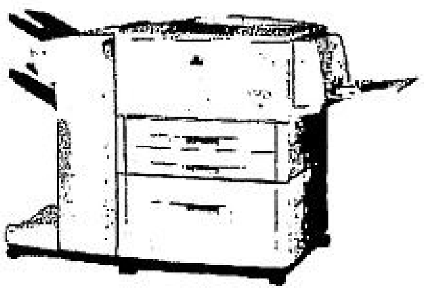

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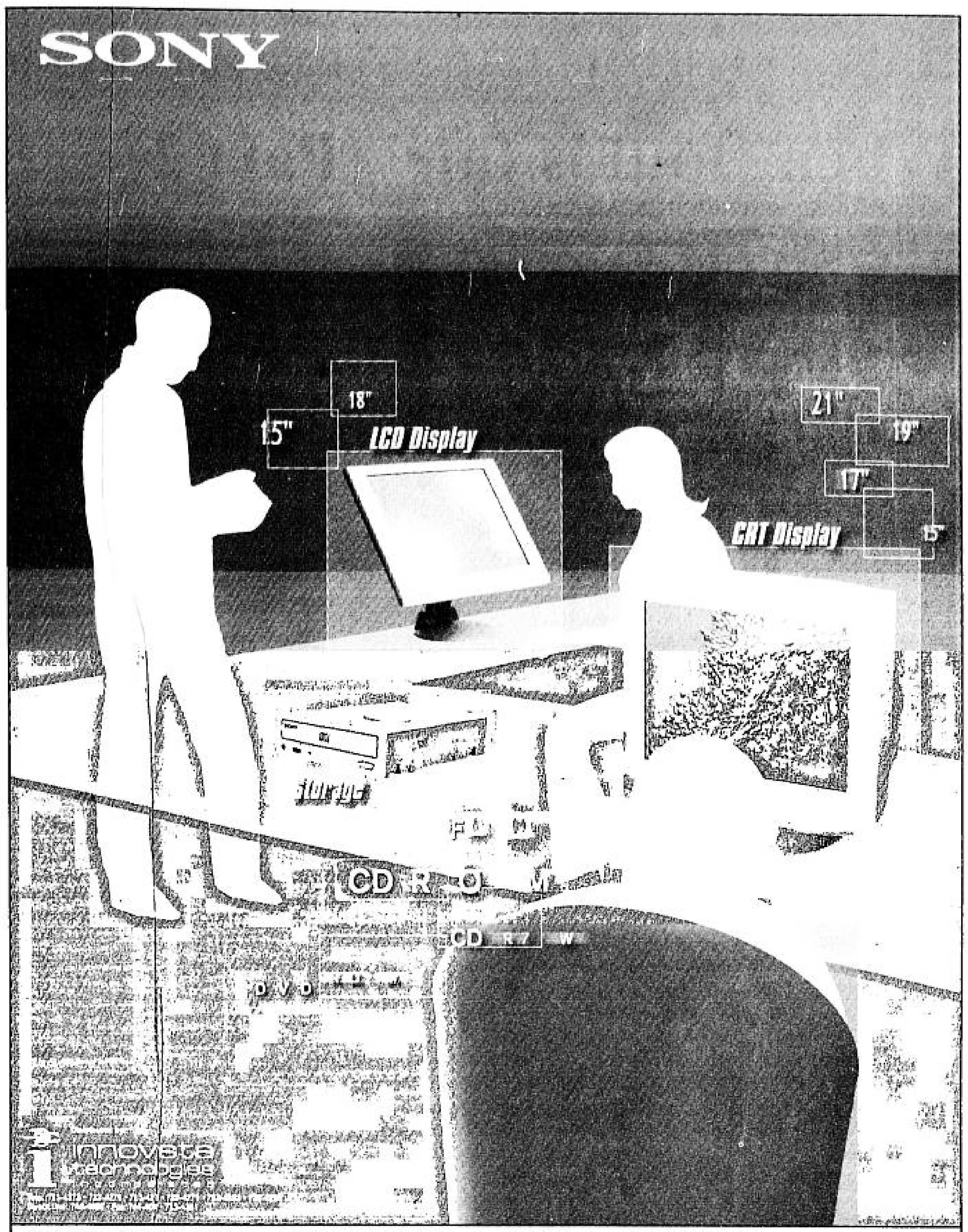

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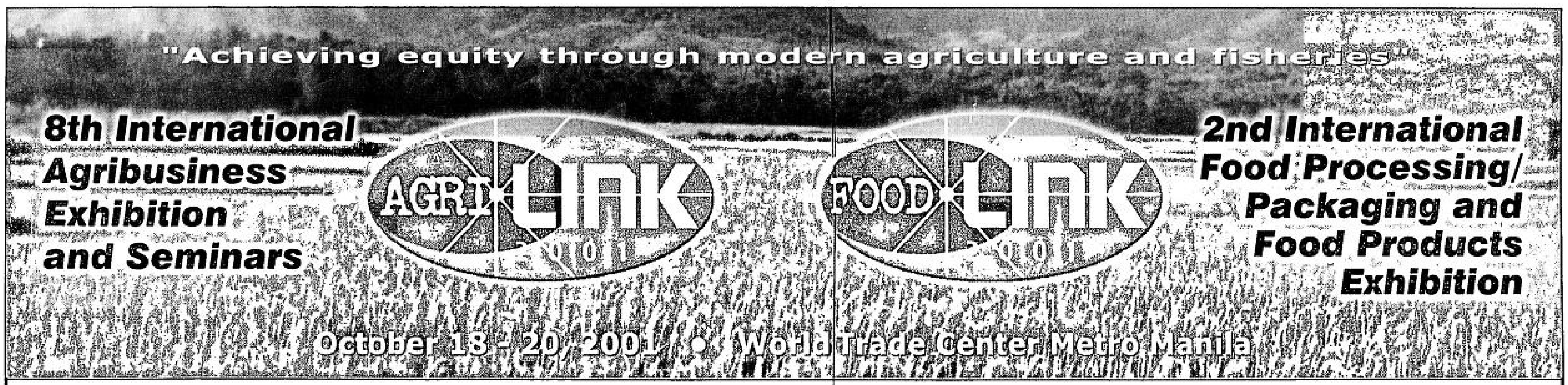

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS:

DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 5	MEETING ROOM 6
October 18, 2001 1:00 - 3:00 pm	Developments in Philippine Aquaculture *by: SEAFDEC-AQD*	
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Artificial Insemination in Practice *by: Jelda Farm Supply Corp.*	Current Status &Future of Swine Reproduction/Feed Ingredients for Swine Diets-Nutrition Values/Problems Associated with Ingredient Sorage and Handling *by: University of Illinois/Illinois Department of Agriculture/USLGE Swine Trade Mission*
October 19, 2001 10:00 am - 12:00 nn	How To Make AI Profitable *by: Schippers Philippines / The Infarmco Group*	Dry Pea for Feed and Food Application *by: US Dry Pea and Lentil Coucil*
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Management of Yield Type Broiler *by: Hybro B.V.*	
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Recent Advances and Development in Swine Nutrition *by: San Miguel Food, Inc.*	Feeding the Reproductinve Herd Under Tropical Conditions/Gilt Management: Factors Influencing Attainment of Puberty and Longevity *by: University of Illinois/Illinois Dept. of Agriculture/USLGE Swine Trade Mission*
October 20, 2001 10:00 am - 12:00 nn	Greater Market Access Through New Technologies: The Israel Experience *by: The Embassy of Israel-Manila*	Feed and Food Safety of Biotech Products: Industry Perspective *by: Monsanto Philippines, Inc.*
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Flower Shop Management *by: Flower Club Phils.*	Diversified Species for Fresh Water Aquaculture *by: Mercado Farms*
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Value Added Products from Tilapia *by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center*	Free Range Chicken Growing *by: Organic Producers & Trade Association*

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When 'foul is fair' (Part 2)

(Why the cement importers want you to believe that cement prices are high)

STOP: UNFAIR DUMPING OF CEMENT!

Cement importers and their collaborators have been orchestrating an organized campaign in the media and in the halls of Congress to convince the public that there is a cartel in the local cement industry. This is notwithstanding the fact that their market share is higher than any of the 17 local manufacturers, and that the local industry has been sustaining massive financial losses due to imports. Their only evidence to sustain this allegation is their claim that local cement prices are allegedly high. As will be discussed, there is absolutely no basis to this contention.

Why are they (and their collaborators) constantly repeating this false claim like a mantra? Goebbels, Adolf Hitler's propagandist, had a dictum that a lie repeated many times becomes the truth. Obviously, the intention is to cover up the real truth – in order to advance and defend their own vested interests because they do not want to lose their exorbitant and immoral profits from importing cement into the Philippines.

Importers cannot deny the fundamental fact that while they bring in imported cement at landed costs of as low as P52 per bag from Indonesia, P86 per bag from Taiwan and P75 per bag from Japan (as compared to the average ex-plant price of local cement at P134 per bag), imported cement is being sold at an average retail price of P144 per bag, slightly lower than the average retail price of local cement at P144.67 per bag.

For Indonesian cement alone, that now accounts for 53% of the imports, the middlemen (importers, dealers and retailers) can make a killing of as much as P82.39 per bag, as compared with the P10.67 per bag profits for middlemen selling local cement. Naturally, the middlemen will push for the imported cement since it yields higher margins. This also helps explain how imported cement has captured 22% as of July 2001 (from 1.4% market share in 1998) without passing any benefits to the consumers.

It is for these profits alone that cement importers (some of whom are also tile importers and steel importers) are willing to also expose not only the local cement industry but all local industries as well as agricultural producers and farmers to the threat of bankruptcy, closure and hunger. For nothing is as imperative and as powerful as the pure profit motive.

On September 4, 2001, cement importers and tile importers obtained a writ of injunction from Judge Floro Alejo of Branch 172 of the Regional Trial Court of Valenzuela City. The injunction, issued upon petition of the importers, stopping the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Congress from implementing the Safeguard Measures Act (Republic Act 8800).

Not only did the decision bar the DTI from acting on a plea by the local cement manufacturers for tariff protection from the dumping of cement imports which have eroded their market share by as much as 35 % in July 2001, it also barred the DTI and DA from hearing any safeguard application from any other local industry or agricultural producer. Thus, even if local industries and farmers are dying from the assault of cheap or dumped imports, there can be no recourse to safeguards.

According to the Judge Alejo's ruling, RA 8800 is unconstitutional since it is allegedly a tax measure where tariff powers were unduly delegated to the DTI and the DA. The court also admonished Congress that if it decides to delegate such power, it must delegate it properly to no one but the President.

By the mere stroke of his pen, Judge Alejo has not only voided an act of Congress that was crafted after years of debate and deliberation but has unilaterally changed the very nature of RA 8800. For RA 8800 was not passed to raise revenue for government but to defend local industries and agricultural producers from import surge. It was not passed in the exercise of Congress' taxation powers but its police power in order to defend the local economy. that was crafted after years of debate and deliberation.

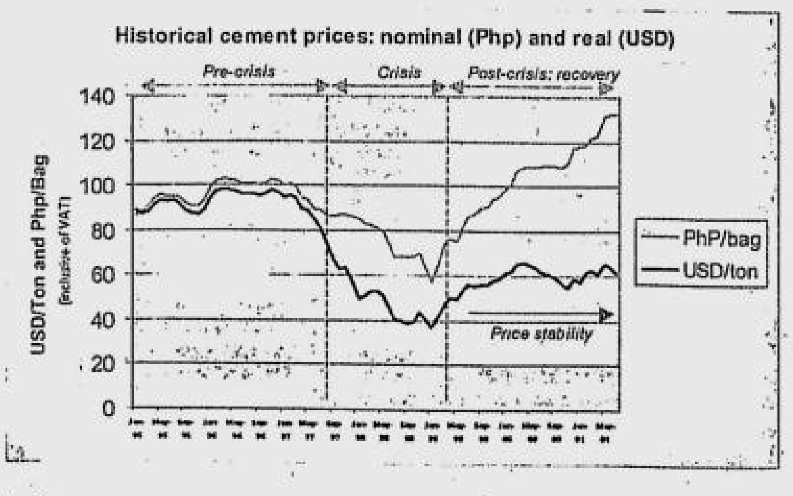
The injunction, if upheld by appellate courts, will also place in jeopardy the two other safety nets, the Anti-Dumping Act and the Countervailing Duties Act, that were also set in place to prevent serious injury to local industries and agricultural producers by preventing unfair trade practices. In both laws, the power to impose dumping and countervailing duties were also delegated to the DTI and DA Secretaries. With the injunction against RA 8800 on the ground of undue delegation of powers, the two other safety net measures can are now also placed in peril because they can be challenged and thrashed by importers and their ilk.

Without these safety net measures, all local industries and agricultural producers and farmers, including those in agriculture, are now vulnerable to predatory dumping and the unabated flooding of imports that undercut local prices. Workers' jobs in both industry and agriculture are placed in peril. All these because of nothing more than the simple greed of a privileged few.

Are cement prices really high?

Below is a graft that shows the behavior of cement prices in peso and dollars, from 1995 (before the Asian financial crisis) to May 2001.

Let's examine in more detail the chart above, focusing on the prices in "pesos per bag" and "dollars per ton".



The "dollar per ton" prices:

- Illustrates the behavior of the price of cement in the Philippines capturing the effect of the change in demand (due to the Asian Crisis) and the change in supply (given the new capacities arising from the industry's government promoted modernization programs)
- It also captures the effect of increasing world fuel prices since the price of fuel increased in dollar terms and accounts for a significant portion of the variable cost of cement production.
- Hence, the dollar chart captures the real change of price of cement while stripping away the effect of the peso's depreciation (this latter effect can only be observed when examining the "peso per bag" chart).

In the "dollar per ton" chart, you will clearly see the price's reaction to the change in demand beginning in late 1997. This adjustment continues until it reaches an all-time low of a monthly average of $38 per ton in January 1999. This is what we refer to as the "over-reaction" or "over-adjustment". This over-reaction or over-adjustment is common when significant fundamental changes in the market occur. If this were a situation where there was a shortage of cement (or any other commodity), the price may have shot up to stratospheric levels initially for a short period of time, then it would "correct" and come back down to a stable level where it would settle within a given range.

Here, looking at the "dollar per ton" chart, we see the correction begin in February 1999 and continue until it reaches a stable level within the range of $57 and $64 dollars per ton starting around July 1999. We also then start seeing the effects of world fuel price increases although those are not as pronounced.

The "peso per bag" prices

When the "peso per bag" chart is examined, the picture looks a bit different. The chart shows prices in pesos climbing. The reason is because the "peso per bag" chart captures the effect of the peso's falling value. As the peso depreciates, the costs of producing cement in peso terms increases as well, given that 70 to 80% of the total costs of producing cement are affected by the decline in the peso's value.

It should be noted that fuel prices have increased 134% since 1997.

Aside from fuel, firebricks grinding balls and raw materials such as gypsum, anthracite and others are all imported. Fixed costs such as salaries are also affected by the peso devaluation.

Therefore, while the prices of cement in pesos appear to be increasing, these must be taken in the context of the peso's depreciation. As shown in the "dollar per ton" graph,. cement prices have remained within the stable range of $57 to $64 for the last two (2) years.

Increase in peso prices are also attributable to import surge due to reduction in sales volume and increase in costs due to lower production.

Moreover, importers and their collaborators have been arguing for that prices are "too high" because prices are not supposed to increase when supply is plentiful and demand is down.

What they conveniently ignore is the economic principle that, all things being equal, prices of a commodity increase when the majority of players in a market are losing money until they reach a stable range within which they remain. In the case of the local cement industry, its losses can be traced to the surging imports that resulted in the reduction of the industry's sales volume and also increase in their costs because fixed costs are spread on fewer units produced. Imports are the new players entering the market but they distort the market because they have substantially different cost structures: dumped prices (landed costs that range between P52 and P86 pesos based on Bureau of Customs import entry documents).

It must be emphasized that imports do not compete fairly in the Philippine market. Dumping is not "efficiency". It is instead a distortion of the market. Due to the entry of imports at dumped prices that distorted the market coupled with contracting demand, cement prices have nowhere to go but up. Were it not for the import surge that displaced local cement, the industry might have better chances of breaking even or perhaps even posted modest profits.

It is also critical to understand the cost structure of local manufacturers when determining if the price of a commodity is conducting itself reasonably. Year 2000 audited financial statements of cement companies reflect, on a combined basis, the following cost structure for a bag of cement:

Cost of Goods Sold	**P 85.94**
Sales, General and Administrative Expenses	**8.43**
Net Interest Expense	**20.13**
Other Expenses (net of other income)	**8.42**
Total cost per bag	**P122.92**

Based on the importers' logic, any increase from an unrealistic price of P44 per bag (this is the price they quote as a baseline) would be unreasonable (note that P44 less 10% VAT equals P40 per bag). The importers would therefore have the cement industry lose on the average P82.92 on every bag it sells! Why? Because what they want in actuality is for the industry to collapse so they can dictate prices and dominate the market.

This, however, leads to a question why imports have "lower prices" despite the fact that most of the importers' costs are in dollars. The table below shows that the current selling prices of imported cement are in dumped prices.

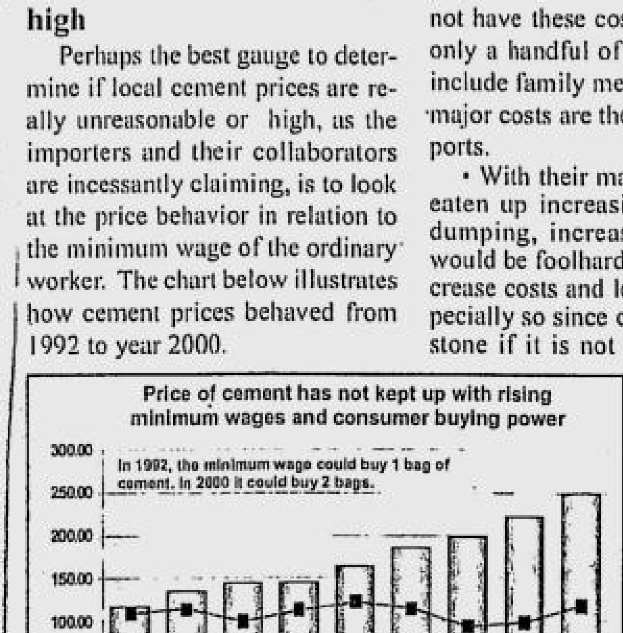
Countries	Home prices	Landed Cost-RP
Taiwan	P137.89/bag	P86/bag
Japan	P178	P94.89
Indonesia	P97.52	P52.87

By selling to the Philippines at these dumped prices, the obvious objective is to wreak havoc on the prices of locally-manufactured cement, capture the market and later — when the local industry shall have crumbled — institute the real prices which could be higher than the home market prices of the exporting countries. By then, they could dictate the prices.

Simply put, the cement exporting countries are still trying to entice the patronage of the Filipinos to their product, in the same manner as the "spider is inviting the fly to its parlor."

Cement prices are not unreasonable nor are they high

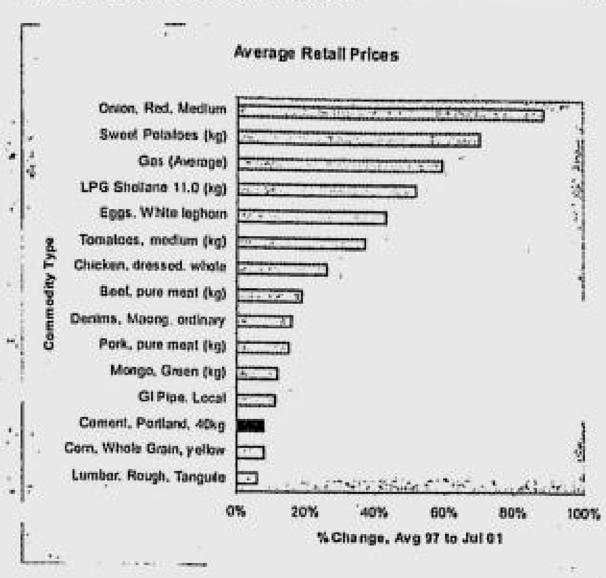
Perhaps the best gauge to determine if local cement prices are really unreasonable or high, as the importers and their collaborators are incessantly claiming, is to look at the price behavior in relation to the minimum wage of the ordinary worker. The chart below illustrates how cement prices behaved from 1992 to year 2000.



Of course, a worker does not ordinarily buy cement everyday like he does on food. A worker may never buy a bag of cement all his life, in fact. But for purposes of illustration, in 1992 when the minimum daily wage was P120, a worker could actually buy one bag of cement on a day's wage. In 2000, with a minimum wage of P250 daily, a worker could buy almost two bags of cement from his wages for a day.

According to data from National Statistics Office and the Department of Agriculture, cement prices have been stable compared to food.

Compared with other countries, cement prices in the Philippines are at the lower end of 20 countries with important cement markets.



PRODUCER PRICE INDEX	Avg 97	May-01	Change
Tobaco	158.9	182.3	15%
Footwear	209.6	248.6	19%
Rubber Products	101.4	125.4	24%
Plastic products	111.4	139.8	25%
Cement	119.0	149.8	26%
Beverage	114.7	151.8	32%
Transport equpt	100.7	134.2	33%
Other chemicals	124.6	166.6	34%
Electrical Machinery	117.4	164.1	40%
Glass & Glass products	96.3	135.0	40%
Pulp Paper	146.8	206.8	41%
Industrial chemicals	118.7	170.5	44%
Fabricated metal products	116.4	170.1	46%
Printing & Publishing	136.1	205.7	51%
Textile	88.9	146.6	65%
Other Mfg Industries	110.0	182.9	66%
Petroleum refineries	109.1	205.7	89%
Wearing Apparel	186.0	502.4	170%

The burden of costs

In the meantime, production costs dramatically increased through the years. This is a cause of wonder by some pro-importer legislators. Why are the costs of manufacturers so high? Why can't they just increase their capacities to recover their costs? Why can't they just pay off their dollar-denominated debts to avoid interest costs? And why should consumers bear the burden of their costs?

In the order of these questions, here are the answers:

- As discussed, 70% to 80% of the manufacturers' costs increased because of the consistent drop in the value of the peso vis-à-vis the dollar. From an average value of P29.4 to a dollar in 1997, the peso dropped to an average of P40.89-$1 in 1998 to P50.54-$1 at present. At the same time, fuel prices also increased by 134% during the same period. Further, most of the loans obtained by local cement manufacturers to modernize their facilities were dollar denominated, and thus affected by the peso depreciation.
- Costs are certainly higher for a single manufacturer who puts up a plant costing from P10-P15 billion at the minimum, employ hundreds of people, and invest on a host of social programs and undertakings in the community where the plant is located. An importer does not have these costs. He employs only a handful of people that also include family members. His only major costs are the costs of his imports.
- With their market share being eaten up increasingly by import dumping, increasing production would be foolhardy. It will just increase costs and losses. This is especially so since cement turns into stone if it is not used within 2-3 months.
- Paying off debts would be fine. But with a constricting market, how to raise the funds to pay off the debts would be a serious problem. Who would want to risk investing further capital in a market that is certain to be dominated by imports? That is why the industry is asking for safeguards so that they can be able to raise funds to made additional investments in the industry. But without safeguards, it would be like throwing good money after bad.
- How else can manufacturers recover their costs, and continue do business, if they do not include their costs to the prices of their commodities? Why go to business at all just to lose money?

For billions of reasons

Because of a market share loss now at an alarming 21.12%, 35% in July 2001 due to the import surge, huge losses are being incurred by local manufacturers. This resulted in shutdowns, slowdowns, mass laying off of workers, and loss of livelihood opportunities to tens of tens of thousands of workers and their families.

Since July 1999, imports have displaced 3.5 million tons of local production capacity. That is equivalent to the annual capacity of production of the following plants, which are either shut-down or substantially impaired: Rizal Cement, Central Cement, Titan Cement, Lloyds Ritchfield, Mindanao Portland Cement, Iligan Cement, and Pacific Cement. Actual losses could run to tens of billions of pesos. Last year alone, combined loss of earnings due to injuries from import surges and dumping could reach about P10 billion.

The local manufacturers' loss is the importers' gain.

And who are these importers? What contributions have they done to society? To the workers? To the economy? To the communities?

Except for TCC Cement Corporation (TCCC) and Southern Cross Cement Corporation, the major importers of cement in this country are composed primarily of family corporations or sole proprietors. They are the **Cos** of the Cohaco Trading Corporation (who are also steel and tile importers), the **Tans** of Arizona Realty Corporation, the **Laos** of Vicente Lao Construction Corporation, the **Yaps** of V&C Rising Management and Development Corporation, the **Chans** and **Huats** of Westpoint Industrial Sales Company and **Samuel So** of Samstone Infra-Construction Supply. They all have minimal capitalization (as compared to investments of P10-P15 billion to set up a medium-sized cement plant) and employ a total of no more than 100 workers.

Southern Cross Cement is 100% Japanese owned. TCC is wholly owned by Taiwan Cement Corporation.Hongkong Cement.

There are no answers to the other questions above. Because there is none.

Their contribution to the economy and the country would have been substantial if they sold their cement at prices as cheap as they imported them. But they have not. They opted for more profits by selling to almost the same, or even higher, as the prices of locally-manufactured cement.

The fact is, with the court injunction on RA 8800, these importers can now go on earning profits with impunity because they know that while the injunction is in place, their exorbitant and immoral profit margins will not be affected. Does it matter that in defending their enormous profits, they have also endangered other local industries and farmers by depriving them of a legal remedy? Evidently not, for what matters is having easy money rolling in.

With the safety net measures virtually ineffective until Judge Alejo's injunction is reversed, these importers could actually make the Philippines totally import dependent on almost everything! Who would dare cross the cartel of importers by that time?

To save and defend our local industries and local jobs, therefore, is to save our national interest. Let us stop unfair and foul trade practices that are killing our industries!

PHILIPPINE CEMENT MANUFACTURERS CORPORATION (PHILCEMCOR)

FITCH IBCA

RP keeps sovereign rating

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INTERNATIONAL credit rating agency Fitch IBCA has maintained the sovereign ratings of most emerging market economies in Asia, including the Philippines, following the September terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

Fitch, however, warned that a sustained economic weakness in the US into 2002 and beyond due to the attacks could have severe consequences in the region.

"The region as a whole is facing its most severe external shock in many years, certainly more virulent than that preceding the 1997 crisis," Fitch said in its Autumn 2001 Sovereign Review. The review highlights the rapidly deteriorating global economic environment and the risks that it poses to emerging markets' creditworthiness.

Fitch said that despite being the most exposed to the US in the region, the Philippines has held up significantly better than expected this year enabling its government to keep the country's fiscal deficit within targets in the first half of the year.

Fitch said that the Philippines and other Asian emerging markets were well placed to withstand near-term deterioration in export revenues because they have made dramatic improvements in external balance sheets and liquidity positions.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the retention of the country's BB+ rating would impact positively on corporations with dollar loans because this would keep their interest expenses stable.

But the Philippines' high public and external debt compared to the rest of Asia's emerging markets has made the country vulnerable to external shocks such as the projected recession in the US due to a plunge in American consumer confidence and oil price hikes.

Aside from external factors, Fitch cited several domestic concerns that could impair the country's ratings: the rising non-performing loan ratio of banks; ongoing security worries; relatively fragile political balance; and doubts on the authorities commitment to the floating exchange rate.

"Stronger external balance sheets have held emerging Asia in good stead so far, but a sustained export slump could lead to a deteriorating credit quality across both private and public sectors," Fitch said.

A drop in the country's sovereign rating from any of the leading credit rating bodies such as S&P and Moody's could curtail the government's ability to proceed with its bond flotation to address the financing shortfall.

Fitch assesses the foreign and local currency debt of governments and its rating serves as the ceiling for the ratings of other issuers within the country such as banks, corporations, state agencies and private investors.

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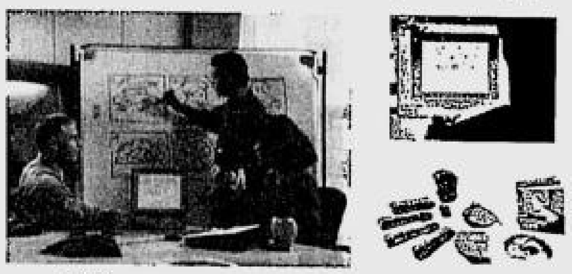
P17.84-B LOAN FOR ROAD PROJECT

The signing of a P17.84-billion loan agreement to finance the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road project was one of the highlights of President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Japan. BCDA chair and president Rogelio L. Singson (left) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) governor Kyosuke Shinozawa (right) signed the agreement in a ceremony witnessed by the President. The 89-km highway linking Subic's international seaport to Clark's international airport will accelerate the creation of a new growth corridor in Central Luzon.



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Program to develop RP services exports sought

SEVEN to 8 million Filipinos working in more than 100 countries have made the Philippines a world leader in the export of services despite the absence of a national program to develop the sector.

More focused efforts by service groups to explore the four modes of exporting services recognized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) may yet drive the sector into capturing niches in the rich global market for several fields of specialization. These efforts, however, should be backed with favorable state policies and a national program to aggressively export services while seriously attending to the welfare of overseas Filipinos.

This conclusion was arrived at by leaders of professional organizations at the conclusion of a recent forum that consolidated the first ever attempt to draw up a national program for service export development initiated by the Export Development Council (EDC) under the Philippine Exporters Confederation's Usaid-funded TAPS project.

One mode of export, that of local service firms taking actual foothold in the country that host the services of Filipinos, has been strongly suggested, in lieu of the present practice of sending off individual professionals and technical workers.

The service providers need to grow into service provider companies with branches or field operations in countries of destination. Commercial presence can also be done through partnerships, joint ventures and other forms of strategic alliances in the host country.

This type of export was pioneered by the Philippine construction companies in the Middle East in the 1970s.

Related industries such as film making, animation and book publishing may also gain more punch if they will join forces in invading the global market.

Some industries such as accounting, animation and consulting services can be done right here in the Philippines with the end-products sent to the buyer through either the Internet or messenger services.

If deliberately developed, industries like animation, film making, health care, tourism, management consulting, financial and accounting services, book publishing and information, and communications technology, not to mention the professional supply of domestic helpers and entertainers, can steadily bring home billions more of dollars a year under the new global economy.

Most of these industries have flourished by catering to the needs of the domestic markets but were found by a team of researchers from the Center for Economic Research and Development of the De La Salle University to have more than good chances of invading the global market.

A national policy and program on service development for export must, however, supplant what one speaker described as the present "convoluted" set of fragmented policies affecting certain sectors.

Some industries like book publishing, medical care and the local movie industry, were found with potentials to carve niches abroad, while others like animation have enough talents to dominate the Asia-Pacific region with a little help from the government.

Much of the expected help from government are in the form of changing laws and regulations that stunted their growth, easier access to capital or financing, forging of treaties that will open markets and protect OFWs, and helping industries get updated with the latest trends in specific markets. *Abe P. Belena, Philexport News & Features*

GOINGS-ON

SAP-HP alliance

SAP Philippines and Hewlett Packard Philippines have formed an alliance to promote supply chain management and supplier management solutions built around the mySAP enterprise system and HP's hardware and middle ware.

"HP and SAP agreed to explore the combination of their products, technologies and services to address the needs of the technology, consumer product, automotive, aerospace and defense, and engineering and construction industries," said Vincent Rodriguez, HP systems integrator and alliance manager. The partners will focus on bringing together resources to provide customers with a complete set of solutions for each of these industry operations.

The two companies plan to cross-train sales team and consultants to design, develop and deliver solutions that combine mySAP Supply Chain Management (mySAP SCM) software components and HP hardware and middleware for enterprises, according to SAP marketing and alliance manager Marivic Segismundo Gamo.

Hartigan-Go bags award

ZUELLIG Foundation executive director Dr. Kenneth Hartigan-Go was recently conferred the Outstanding Service Award by the Drug Information Association during its 37th Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado, USA.

The Drug Information Association provides a neutral global forum for the exchange and dissemination of information in the discovery, development, evaluation and utilization of medicines and related healthcare technologies. Through these activities, DIA provides development opportunities for its members.

DIA also has a research grant program that encourages and fosters research in areas pertaining to pharmaceutical and biotechnology product development regulation, marketing utilization and surveillance.

Morinda exec to visit RP

THIERRY Sorhaitz, general manager for the Asia Pacific region of Morinda Inc., manufacturer of the widely popular Tahitian Noni Juice, will be in Manila from Sept. 26 to 28 to meet with the country's top officials and confer with leading Morinda distributors in the country.

This was announced by Daniel Custodio, country manager of Morinda Philippines, who also said that Sorhaitz will be here to apprise Philippine officials about Morinda's investment plans in the country.

Five years after it was put up in the United States, Morinda Inc. is now a billion-dollar company. To date, Morinda has paid out over $500 million to its distributors all over the world.

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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MOA on waste, pest solutions to be signed at NCUPC confab

THE SIGNING of a Memorandum of Agreement to "implement modern, indigenous and proven solutions to the waste and pests problems nationwide" will be among the main activities in the annual National Conference of the National Committee on Urban Pest Control (NCUPC). The National Conference is part of the "Clean Up the World" month and the "Urban Pest Control Week" celebration.

The MOA will be signed by government agencies including the DENR, DOH, Department of Agriculture, DILG, DECS, CHED, PRC, NIA, Bureau of Plant Industry and MMDA. Also joining the MOA signing will be NGOs and members of civil society, led by the NCUPC, the Recycling Movement of the Philippines, the Earthsavers Movement, and Mother Earth.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo will be witnessing the MOA signing and will also deliver the keynote address. The conference will highlight Filipino products and technologies that will effectively address waste and pest problems. Dr. Metodio Palaypay, MD, NCUPC executive director, will present the indigenous technologies for solid management, while multi-awarded inventor Gonzalo O. Catan Jr. will present those for pest management. Other speakers during the one-day affair will be MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos, DOH Secretary Manuel Dayrit, agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, DENR Secretary Sonny Alvarez and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Atienza and Alvarez are NCUPC chair and co-chair, respectively.

The National Conference entitled "Modern, Indigenous and Proven Solutions to the Waste and Pest Problems" will be held on Sept. 26 at the Philippine Columbian Association Clubhouse at Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila. For more information, call the NCUPC Secretariat at 525-0434.

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LIVIN' LA VISA WINNERS

Visa International's Livin' La Visa Lifestyle promo was recently concluded with Equitable Visa cardholders Jocelyn Aguilar bagging $40,000 as first prize and Rolando Tan winning $5,000 as second prize. Shown during the awarding were (from left) Jennifer Lee, Philippines marketing manager, Visa International, Eugenio Hernando, senior executive vice president, Equitable Card, Jocelyn Aguilar, first prize winner and Rolando Tan, second prize winner.

Projection even with the lights on

INFOCUS, the undisputed No. 1 projector in the world, introduces LP290, the projector designed to deliver true XGA performance projecting at 1100 ANSI Lumens. Versatile and full-featured, it allows projection even with the lights on. The LP290 demonstrates once again why Infocus sells more projectors than any other manufacturer.

The LP 290 is built for ease of use. It employs an intuitive icon-and-text based menu system for graphical navigation that's instantly familiar to any PC user. It has also an impressive set of features, including a zoom function for powerful emphasis, while digital keystone correction ensures that images are perfectly square, giving you the flexibility to set up your projector anywhere. Best of all, at just 5.7 pounds, this compact projector is easy to take anywhere. It can easily stay in a dedicated room or go with you on the road.

American Technologies Inc. (ATI) is the exclusive distributor and authorized service provider in the Philippines. For inquiries, call 723-0601 local 323, look for Malou or Tess.

SWEDISH MATCH CIGAR-ROLLING SEMINAR

A cigar-rolling seminar was conducted recently at Mandarin Hotel for cigar enthusiasts and cigar dealers. Swedish Match, manufacturers of 'Macanudo', America's top-selling cigar, and Ott Louie Phils., exclusive distributors of Macanudo, invited Bruce Lewis of General Cigars and Alicia Mercedes Fermin of the Dominican Republic to teach and perform the ancient art of rolling a cigar. Winning the title 'Best Cigar Roller' during the seminar is Analyn Silva of Kipling's, Mandarin Hotel (center). Awarding her is Alicia Mercedes Fermin of Macanudo with (from left) Bruce Lewis, international business development manager of General Cigars, Pierre Marmonier, regional area manager of Swedish Match for Asia, and Beth Flores, general manager of Ott Louie Phils.

LUX SUPPORTS RED CROSS

As part of its social commitment in line with its 'Lux for Life' campaign, Lux Marketing Inc. recently donated food and drinks to the Philippine National Red Cross in its blood-letting activity. Shown is Dr. Teresita Arguelles, PNRC chapter administrator, accepting the donations from Lux's marketing services manager Rudy Javier and property officer Raul Docot.

UPDTC SUPPORT FOR VARSITY

The UP Diliman Tennis Club (UPDTC) recently donated P30,000 for the UP Varsity Tennis Team through the UP Diliman Office of the Chancellor. The UPDTC is a member of the UP Diliman community that promotes physical fitness through tennis. Among the notable members of the UPDTC are former Neda director general Gerry Sicat, former minister for budget and management Manuel Alba, former UP president Emil Q. Javier, and former DECS undersecretary Fred Clemente. The 2001 board of trustees and officers are as follows: president Roman H.S. Santos Jr., vice president Sonny Castillo, treasurer Marcelino Torres, executive secretary Crisostomo Danguilan. Other trustees are Dr. Armi Guillermo, Alfred Gutierrez, Emmanuel Babao, George Gil, Eusebio Dizon, Piegunte Burgonio and professor Honesto Nuqui representing the UP chancellor. Shown is UPDTC president Roman H. Santos, Jr. handing the check to UP Diliman chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman. Also shown are UPDTC trustees Tito Torres, Emmanuel Babao and Bong Nuqui, dean of the college of human kinetics Hilda L. Uy, coaches Ariel Juliano and Jimbo Saret, and vice chancellor for community affairs Ed Gotiangco.

22nd National Super Quiz Bee launched

THE QUIZ Bee Foundation and Quiz Bee International announced the formal launching of the 22nd National Super Quiz Bee.

The objectives of the competition, which runs until Dec. 7, are to promote value formation, academic excellence, leadership, peace, love of country, brotherhood and unity among our youth as well as enhance learning experiences in science and technology, mathematics, Philippine history and culture, general information and international affairs.

The project has the full support of the Office of the President, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The three levels and four subject categories are: the National Senior Quiz Bee, tertiary level, for general information and international affairs; the National Junior Quiz Bee, high school level, for science and technology; the National Children's Quiz Bee, elementary level, for Philippine history and culture and mathematics.

Nationwide eliminations at the school and district levels had been conducted this August. The eliminations at the division level are ongoing until Sept. 31; regional level, from Oct. 1 to 30. The national grand finals will be held on Dec. 7.

This year's major sponsors are STI, Yakult, Uni Writing Instruments, with major donors Papa Ketchup, Time Life Books, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Junior Inquirer, JRS Express, and Ahead Tutorial and Review Center.

In the National Capital Region, the Division championships are held in a rotating manner in leading shopping malls to enable students and teachers to witness firsthand the competition. The public is invited. Admission is free.

The first of the seven series Division championship reeled off Sept. 7 at the Activity Center of Ayala Alabang Town Center. Participants included top students of the Divisions of Muntinlupa City, Pateros, Taguig, Parañaque City and Las Piñas City.

The remainder of the NCR Quiz Bee Division championships are set on Sept. 29, Satuday, at the SM City Manila. Competing in this event are the divisions of Manila and Pasay City.

The divisions of Pasig City, Marikina City, Mandaluyong City and San Juan compete on Oct. 13, Saturday at the Robinsons Galleria while the divisions of Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela City compete on Oct. 27, Saturday, at the SM City North Edsa.

All winners in the Division championships in Metro Manila will compete for the honor to represent the region on Nov. 10 at the Robinsons Place Manila.

Each of the four national Quiz Bee champions will receive a President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo trophy, a Quiz Bee gold medallion of excellence, 24 volumes of Collier's Encyclopedia and a personal computer.

New Davao knights

THE KNIGHTS of Columbus St. Jude Council No. 5831 of Davao City held its installation of officers on Aug. 12 at the St. Jude Parish social hall.

SK Ramon Jamora, district deputy of district 14 installed grand knight SK Ricardo V. Villegas; deputy grand knight SK Geoffrey L. Rodriguez; chancellor Leonoro O. Gudin; recorder Ruben M. Dongzal; treasurer SK Rene T. Ninte; advocate SK Alfonso de la Victoria; warden SK Jesus PG Tolentino Jr.; inside guard Roman M. Alvarez; outside guard SK Pastor L. Crave.

Appointed officers were: chaplain Rev. Fr. Ronelo P. Anung DCD; financial secretary SK Saul M. Anteporda; program director SK Carlito L. Llavore; activities directors, church, SK Mario P. Orilla; community, Roman M. Alvarez; council, SK Solomon D. Barbas; family, SK Ceferino A. Fernandez Jr.; youth, SK Ruben M. Dongzal; and membership, Rolando A. Melgarejo.

Integrating company resources, data and info through portals

THERE is a need to integrate company information and resources in order to have better and dynamic interaction with suppliers and partners in eBusiness where transactions originate and end online. At the launch of the Jasmineii Portal technology, Puni Rajah of software research, International Data Corporation, cites an IDC research saying that adoption of portals in Asia Pacific is low and 45 percent of companies in the region have not yet integrated their enterprise applications such as customer relations management, supply chain management and resource system. She advised companies adopting to portal to start small but follow an enterprise-wide strategy.

Jasmineii is a web-based enterprise information portal from Computer Associates that delivers personalized information from various sources in visually compelling formats. The solution intelligently integrates all data, hence empowering employees, partners and customers with dynamic business information they need to compete and win at eSpeed. The product was launched in the United States a few months ago.

'SPIRIT OF '76' HOMECOMING

Letran High School Class '76 , otherwise known as the "Spirit of 76", will host this year's homecoming of Colegio de San Juan de Letran on Nov. 24 at the school campus. The jubilarian class is feverishly preparing for the affair and calls on all other members of the class to come and help out. Call the Letran Alumni office at 527-1775 or Barbie at 525-0434 or Fr. Chito at 724-2978. Shown are (from left, first row) Armin Sarthou, Ofel Castillo-Legazpi (adviser), Reggie Salazar, Rolly Sta. Cruz, Jun Mijares; (second row) Fr. Chito Reyes, Barbie Atienza, Rene Arias, Totoy Sarmiento and Dodie Feliciano.

'OPLAN: SAGIP-MATA'

The Rotary Club of Parañaque Central District 3830 under Gov. Ernie Salas awards 200 pairs of corrective eyeglasses to public school students from 23 schools in DECS Parañaque under Dr. Rolando Magno. This is an annual project of RC Parañaque Central under president Ric Chua, jointly undertaken with Parañaque City Representative Ed Zialcita. The project intends to enhance the learning capability of indigent pupils by improving their eyesight. Shown is Zialcita fitting a pair of corrective eyeglasses on a student. Looking on are RCPC president Ric Chua (left) and director Cayo Mercado.

SENNHEISER MICS AT I.O.

Yupangco Electronics Corp., exclusive distributor of Sennheiser microphones in the Philippines, recently cut a deal to be the official microphone provider of I.O. Family KTV along Jupiter Street in Makati City. The contract was signed recently between Yupangco Electronics and I.O. Family KTV for 200 pieces of microphones to be used at I.O. At the contract signing were (from left) Edwin C. Reyes (general manager, I.O.) Swee Ho (managing director, Sennheiser Electronic Asia Pte. Ltd), Jose Marie L. Yupangco (Yupangco, executive vice president), Bienvenido T. Gonzales (I.O. president) and Rolf Meyer (Sennheiser president) witnessing the event.

US insurers in shape to pay all WTC claims

WASHINGTON—The US insurance industry is in good shape to pay all claims from the destruction of the World Trade Center, insurance leaders told President George W. Bush on Friday, but they may need the government to take a share of the cost of any further terror attacks.

"The insurance industry is very safe. The insurance industry is well capitalized," said Maurice Greenberg, chair of American International Group Inc., talking to reporters after a group of insurance executives met Bush for about 45 minutes at the White House.

But if there were repeated attacks, insurers may need government help, the group told the president, according to Greenberg, who is generally considered the industry's most powerful leader.

"The federal government has to backstop the impact on the industry arising out of terrorist activities," Greenberg said, suggesting that the US follow Britain in creating a government-run reinsurance pool that picks up a large portion of the damage from terror attacks.

The attack on the World Trade Center could cost insurers worldwide $30 billion to $40 billion, easily their worst loss ever.

That could eat up 30 percent of affected insurers' combined capital base, Robert Vagley, president of lobby group the American Insurance Association (AIA), told Reuters.

"They (insurers) will pay," said Vagley, who was present at the meeting. "But heaven forbid if there were repetitious acts like this, there would come a point where the industry's capability would be strained. But that point is certainly not now."

Insurers and rating agencies have said so far that the losses from the World Trade Center are manageable, though Standard & Poor's Corp. has said if industry-wide losses go above $50 billion, the solvency of some insurers could be threatened.

The idea of calling on government in such cases is not new, and has worked well in Britain, where the UK government set up Pool Re in the 1990s after several bomb blasts in London cost insurers dearly, forcing them to hike premiums drastically.

The US should look into setting up an equivalent to Pool Re, Greenberg told reporters. Pool Re is a government-backed reinsurance vehicle, which pools a portion of insurers' premiums to cover the cost of terror attacks. The British government is the insurer of last resort if the pool runs out of cash. Getting claims paid out quickly was the insurers' priority, Vagley said.

To help that along, the insurers discussed with Bush a plan to channel all litigation over compensation into one court in the Southern District of New York. That would prevent compensation money ending up in the hands of lawyers, Vagley said.

It would also protect insurers from possible massive jury awards from different courts around the country, and cap their liability exposure.

Bush, no ally of trial lawyers, was sympathetic to that idea, Vagley said.

Insurers certainly would not deny claims on any "act of war" or terrorism clauses, Vagley added, backing up similar statements from many insurers.

The insurers, including executives from Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. and Travelers Property Casualty Corp., a unit of Citigroup Inc., did not discuss in detail problems facing airlines' insurance exposure.

Airlines have until Monday to find insurance cover for future big-ticket liability claims arising from acts of terrorism and war after London-based air insurers drastically reduced their cover.

Airlines are hoping the federal government will step in to cover these liabilities as part of a $15-billion rescue package working its way through Congress Friday.

Reuters

GE pares earnings targets for 2001

NEW YORK—General Electric Co. pared earnings forecast, but still expects double-digit growth and remains well-positioned even after heavy insurance losses from last week's terrorist attacks, CEO Jeffrey Immelt said Friday.

"The GE model works," Immelt said Friday in his first meeting with investors since taking the helm. "We're looking at this unmistakable tragedy as a time of strength for the company."

GE, the world's largest company with a $308 billion market value, said Friday it expected 2001 per-share earnings growth of 11 percent to $1.41 per share, up from $1.27 last year. Before the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the company had forecast earnings of $1.45, analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call had expected $1.43 a share.

Immelt, who took over as chair and CEO from Jack Welch on Sept. 7, told investors at a meeting in New York that the company's diversified businesses, much of it acquired during the past two decades under Welch, would help GE manage losses from its aircraft engine division and at the NBC broadcasting network. The network cut advertising for several days after the attacks.

GE's Employers Reinsurance Corp. is among several companies providing insurance and reinsurance coverage of the World Trade Center and the four aircraft used in the terrorist attacks. Last Week, it said that it would incur $600 million in pretax insurance losses.

Before the attacks, GE was on track to meet the consensus estimate of analysts surveyed by First Call for the third quarter of 37 cents per share, up 16 percent from last year. However, ERC's losses could reduce third-quarter net income by 4 cents to 33 cents per share, up 3 percent from 2000.

"GE is built to outperform," said Immelt, who also predicted double-digit growth in 2002. "I was chair for two days, and then I had jets with my engines hit a building I insured which was covered by a network I owned, and we still grew (2001) earnings by 11 percent. I think we're in pretty good shape."

Immelt cited solid growth in the power systems and medical systems divisions, as well as GE Capital Services, the financial services arm, which brings in more than half of GE's revenue. He said the outlook assumed a "very bad economy," but doesn't take into account a "major dislocation caused by war," such as a dramatic spike in oil prices.

AP

Fund industry facing uglier days ahead

NEW YORK—A number of businesses have watched their prospects go from bad to worse after last week's attacks on the United States, and the mutual fund industry is no exception.

"We're close to a worst-case scenario right now, and it's probably going to stay that way for a long time," said Jeff Hopson, an industry analyst at A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Fund firms, already struggling amid a downturn in the stock market, must now brace for even uglier times ahead. Analysts who track fund companies are slashing their profit forecasts for the rest of the year as well as for 2002 and anticipating further cuts in jobs and expenses.

Stilwell Financial Inc., parent of the Janus and Berger fund groups, T. Rowe Price Group Inc. and Waddell & Reed Financial Inc. are seen the most vulnerable, considering their reliance on stock funds over more conservative investments such as bond funds and money market accounts, analysts said.

Their stocks have been pummeled since the market reopened on Monday after being closed for four days because of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Stilwell's shares have fallen about 20 percent so far this week, while T. Rowe's and Waddell's are down 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

The average diversified stock fund has tumbled 23.3 percent in 2001, according to research firm Lipper Inc., a unit of Reuters Group Plc. This year could turn out to be the worst for fund investors since 1974, when the average diversified stock portfolio fell about 25 percent.

Fund investors have pulled money out of mutual funds in recent days, but industry observers say the numbers are relatively small given the sharp market declines. A net $7.8 billion streamed out of stock funds on Monday and Tuesday, according to estimates by fund flow tracker TrimTabs.com.

Figures for Wednesday were not yet available. Investors injected just $53 billion into stock funds in the first eight months of the year, compared with $259.4 billion in all of 2000, Merrill Lynch & Co Inc. estimated in a research report released last week.

Yet flows aren't the real concern because fund investors, many of whom own assets through retirement accounts, tend to avoid panic selling, said Rob Sobhani, an analyst at Banc of America Securities who follows asset management firms.

"The real issue here is the market," Sobhani said. He has reduced his 2002 profit projections for the asset managers he covers, including Stilwell and T. Rowe, by 10 to 20 percent.

"A bad market can wipe out years of growth and sales effort," he said.

The fortunes of fund companies are tied closely to the zigs and zags of the market. The declines of the past year and a half have chipped away at the value of fund companies' portfolios and the fees they generate from managing money.

Some fund firms have cut jobs this year to cope.

Boston-based Putnam Investments, a unit of Marsh & McLennan Cos. Inc., announced a 4-percent reduction in jobs last spring.

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late RAMON B. GONZALES has been extrajudicially settled with Quit Claim among the heirs as per Doc.#105; Page#21; Book#108; Series of 2001 before ATTY. H.B. BASCO, Notary Public

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Evelina Tiongson Muyot** has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs as per Doc.#185; Page#38; Book#3; Series of 2000 before Notary Public Mitos P. Lambino of Quezon City PDI-Sept. 10, 17, 24, 2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that common Class "B" Stock Dividend Cert. No. 11324 issued by SM Development Corp. for 2887 shares under the name of LEONARDO S. CANSANA is missing. If no contest received. New Cert. will be issued (9/17, 24, & 10/1)

•NOTICE OF LOSS•
49 PNB SHARES OF STOCK LOST IN THE NAME OF JORGE M. CARLOS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given on the loss of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company Stock certificate number 100017429 issued on August 15, 1997 and owned by **CONSOLACION Y. LIM** of 1486 Fuentes Drive, Roxas City. If no contest will be received within a period of thirty (30) days, a new copy of stock certificate will be issued
(PDI-Sept.10,17&24, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen

Person must pray this 3 consecutive Days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. MTO

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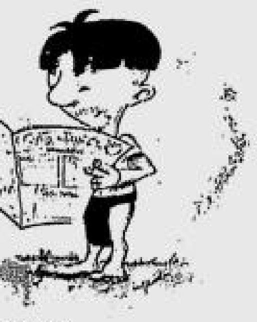

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In Memory

on the 10th Death Anniversary of

Atty. ROMEO Y. CO

(President, Allied Banking Corporation, 1977-1991)

who joined his Creator on September 24, 1991.

His wife **Zenia**; children and children-in-law **Ma. Trinidad (Nenette), Romeo R.M., Jr. (Rombit) & Maja Olivares, Atty. Ma. Fe Encarnacion (Peachy Pie) & Dr. Eric T. Lao** and **Lyndon Anthony (Dondon)**; grandchildren **Tiffany, Jerermy & Kimberly Lao** and **Rama & Ravi Co**; stepmother, brothers and sisters and their respective spouses, nephews and nieces, request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Schedule of Masses offered:

Santuario de San Antonio, ... 12:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City
Sancta Maria Stella Orientis Oratory (CRC), ... 7:45 a.m., 12:05 p.m.
Amber Street, Ortigas Center, Pasay City
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, ... 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
Magallanes Village, Makati City
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila .... 7:15 a.m., 6:15 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila .... 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew Church, Bel-Air Village, Makati City .... 6:30 p.m.
St. Francis Parish Church, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City .... 6:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Church, ... 6:00 a.m.
Mother Ignacia corner Timog Avenue, Quezon City
Santissimo Rosario Church (UST), España Street, Sampaloc, Manila .... 6:30 a.m.
San Antonio de Padua Parish, Pila, Laguna .... 6:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Santo Niño de Paz Community Chapel, ... 12:15 p.m., 5:45 p.m.
Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City
Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Quezon City .... 7:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, ... 6:00 a.m.
Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City
Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion (Manila Cathedral), ... 7:30 a.m.
Intramuros, Manila
San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila .... 7:00 a.m.
Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, Ermita, Manila .... 6:00 p.m.
Cardinal Santos Medical Center Chapel, ... 5:15 p.m.
Wilson Street, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
The Chapel of Eucharistic Lord, ... 12:15 p.m.
5/F SM Megamall, Building A, EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Pambujan Catholic Church, Pambujan, Northern Samar .... 5:30 a.m.

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Then I saw a new heaven... a new earth
...here is the dwelling place of God...
God will be with them and wipe every
tear from their eyes... there shall be
no more death or crying out in pain...

In utter bereavement but with spiritual joy
we celebrate the entrance to eternal life of our beloved

"MOMSIE"

ELPIDIA M. VDA. DE RAMIREZ

November 16, 1906 – September 22, 2001

HER CHILDREN,
Aimee Marie, Sr. Maria Perla, ICM; Maria Nelia, Sr. Mary Vianney, SPC; Maria Nita & Alan Laptad, Maria Mina, Maria Aurora & Gaius Reyes, Joselito & Lucy Carvajal, Joaquin Jr. & Lorelei Castelo;

HER GRANDCHILDREN,
Chris, Marienel & Allan Afable, Francis Jeff & Tiffany Cisneros, Francis & Lolit, Gina & Oscar de la Cruz, Lisa, Cornelius & Mae, Alfie, George and **Cherelei**; and all her great grandchildren – **Jose Angelo, Isabella Marie, Jose Luis, Oscar Gene, Marie Cristel, Carlo Boy, Leander, Derneil** request the pious reader to join us in praise and thanksgiving to God for **Momsie**'s 94 years, 10 months and 6 days of sterling devotion and sacrifice in giving the best of herself to us for God. Now she joins loved ones who are gone before us – our dear father, **Joaquin**; **Carlos**, our brother, and baby **Maria Lina**. Please pray with us for their perpetual rest in peace.

Momsie lies in state at Felicidad Chapel in Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. The Funeral Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 27, 2001.

Interment follows at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate your kind donations for the social pastoral projects of the Asian Social Institute.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Corinthians 4:14

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Date: 29 September 2001 (Saturday)
Time: 7:00 p.m.
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marks the inception of our more dedicated and enthusiastic partnership with the consumers as we move towards broader perspective.

For Systems inquiries and/or orientation, visit or call our Business Center Operation (BCO) near you.
(We will further set up BCOs in other areas soon...)

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- ***RISE – GLOBAL CITY TAGUIG***
  Ms. Regina C. Velasco
  355 B-8 GHQ Zone 1-C Signal, Taguig, Metro Manila Tel. # (02) 838-7883
  CP # 0919-4339797 / 0919-8990289
- ***RISE PROJECT 8, QUEZON CITY***
  108-B Rd. 20, Project 8, Quezon City
  Tel. # (02) 425-1443/454-0600/454-0819
  Fax #(02) 927-2314 CP# 0917-8118079
  Email: *rrreds@pacific.net.ph*
  Orientation: *9 AM – 6 PM (Tues. – Sat.)*
- ***RISE CHIT-PANDACAN***
  Ms. Necita D. Salvio
  1944 A. Sampaguita St., Pandacan, Manila Tel. # (02) 561-6605
- ***RISE CYBER CENTRAL***
  Diliman, Quezon City
  Tel. # (02) 931-8003
  CP # 0917-8374464
- ***RISE – PARAÑAQUE CITY***
  Ms. Marilou Espiritu
  84C Doña Soledad Ave., Better Living, Parañaque City Tel. # (02) / 821-1188 /821-4764 / Telefax # (02) 821-1155
  CP # 0919-4482698
  Orientation Schedule: Sept. 26 & 27, 2001 (Fri. & Sat.) @ 4 PM – 6 PM
  E-mail: *lhouespiritu@yahoo.com*
- ***RISE – PACO***
  Mr. Allan T. Restorio
  1155 JL Escoda St., Paco Market, Paco, Manila
  Tel. # (02) 562-0645 / 524-9549
  CP # 0919-8012633 / 0917-4987682
- ***RISE CYBIZ-QUEZON CITY***
  Ms. Le Guzman
  #18 Antonio Luna, Proj. 4, Q.C.
  Tel. # (02) 9138564
  CP # 0917-3871028/ 0919-832-8771
  Email: *go4gold@edsamail.com.ph*
- ***RISE –CAINTA, RIZAL***
  Ms. Emma Licuanan
  Felix Ave. cor. V.V. Soliven, Cainta, Rizal *(in front of Sta. Lucia East Grandmall & Sound Stage besides Artem Aqua)*
  Tel. # (02) 249-0284/645-8244
  CP # 0917-8369937/ 0919-4776239
- ***RISE MY-MAR***
  Ms. Rosalinda Jugo
  17 Gen. Isidro Torres St., Galler Hts. Subd., Baniat, Quezon City
  Tel. # (02) 939-4216
  CP # 0919-8260702
- ***RISE E-CUBAO***
  Ms. Nila D. Cañezal
  Rm 403 Diamond Bldg., 603 EDSA Cubao, Quezon City Tel. #(02)418-2729 / 721-3386 CP # 0917-4948023
- ***RISE – PASAY ROAD, MAKATI***
  Mr. Anthony A. Arciaga
  5554 P. Binay St., cor. Bauangueño St., Brgy. Pio del Pilar, Makati City
  Tel. # (02) 887-2446
  Email: *rise_makati@edsamail.com.ph*
- ***RISE ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA***
  CTMA COMMUNICATIONS
  384 East Service Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa / Tel. #: (02) 772-1193
  CP# 0919-3182678
- ***RISE E-NOVALICHES***
  Ms. Emma C. Daniel
  Rm 203-B Our Lady of Mercy Bldg., Quirino Hi-way cor. Ramirez St., Novaliches Proper, Quezon City
  Tel. # (02) 935-8381 / 983-0346
  CP # 0919-8723689
- ***RISE E-Commerce Marikina***
  Ms. Erlinda C. Sernadilla
  Rm 302 #51 Bayanbayan Ave., Marikina Heights, Marikina City
  Tel. # (02) 934-7764
  CP # 0919-3949151
- ***RISE – ROOSEVELT, QUEZON CITY***
  Ms. Meryle R. Taaca
  Unit 7, 3rd Flr., 316 Roosevelt Ave., SFDM, Quezon City Tel # (02) 330-9259
  Telefax #: (02) 372-9081
  CP # 0917-5401634
  Training Sched.:*(from Tues. to Sat. @ 2 PM & 4PM)*
  Email: *mtaacn@yahoo.com*
- ***RISE – VALENZUELA CITY***
  Ms. Mildred D. Datuin *(contact person)*
  Unit #1 Keppelson Bldg., #51 Mc Arthur Hi-way, Marulas, Valenzuela City
  Tel. # (02) 277-2163 to 64
- ***RISE COMMONWEALTH GROUP***
  Ms. Ofelia J. Ballesta
  628 Grapes St., Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. Tel. # (02) 932-2490/428-0840

LUZON BUSINESS CENTERS

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  Mr. Manuel G. Valdez/ Ms. Jho Valdez
  Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan / Tel. # (075) 568-5116
  CP # 0917-4473280
- ***RISE DINS E-COMMERCE, BAGUIO CITY***
  Engr. Ferdinand G.Tangalin
  Ms. Bella Navalta
  Rm 204 National Life Bldg., 110 Session Rd., Baguio City
  Telefax # (074) 447-0795
  CP # 0919-2182997 / 0919-6709848
- ***RISE – BIÑAN, LAGUNA***
  Ms. Lilibeth P. Gabriel
  Unit 305, University Center, National Hi-way, Biñan, Laguna
  Tel. # (049) 839-0878 / 411-0389
  CP # 0919-8195899 / 0919-5766235
- ***RISE – VIRMAL, BATANGAS CITY***
  Mr. Virgilio M. Lichauco
  Lyceum Site, Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City / Tel. # (043) 300-2001
  Telefax # (043) 300-5815
- ***RISE E-COMMERCE DAGUPAN***
  (Seminar Schedule: Tues. to Sat. @ 2 PM)
  #130 Guilig St., Dagupan City
  (2nd Flr. ALPHA Printing Press)
  Ms. Tonith Bornolla
  Tel. # (075) 523-4284/CP# 0917-7420556
  Ms. Imelda Sarmiento
  Tel. # (075) 515-6755/CP# 0919-6649784
  Ms. Emely Soriano
  Tel. # (075) 515-4066/CP# 0917-3654775
  Ms. Letty S. Embuido
  Tel. # (075) 523-3757/CP# 0919-4101862
- ***RISE – PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN***
  Mr. Nixon M. Edora
  BM Road, Puerto Princesa City
  Tel. # (048) 433-5254
- ***RISE – SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION***
  Mr. Socrates Resty Rellama
  National Hi-way, Brgy. Pagdaraoan, SFDO, La Union *(in front of SEA & SKY Hotel)* Tel. # (072) 700-1935
  CP # 0919-8632682
- ***RISE GREAT IDEAS, DASMARIÑAS***
  Mr. Alvin T. Tabañag
  Unit 10 2nd Flr., Sely's Complex, # 80 Don P. Campos Ave., Dasmariñas Bayan, Cavite Tel. # (046) 973-4120
  CP# 0917-5023149

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- ***RISE – ILOILO***
  (Orientation: every Saturday @ 3 PM.)
  Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City
  Tel. # (033) 336-6774

SUB-CENTERS

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  # 203,2nd Flr. Nite Plaza,Tajanlangit St., Miag-ao, Iloilo
  Tel. # (033) 315-9614 / 315-9370
- ☐ ***RISE – CALLE REAL CENTER***
  B & C Bldg., Solis cor. Iznart St., Iloilo City CP# 0918-7233673
- ☐ ***RISE – MULTIRICH***
  AMIGO Plaza Mall, Iznart St., Iloilo City
  Tel. # (033) 337-9252
  CP # 0917-6405120 / 0919-6528190
- ☐ ***RISE – JARO***
  Ms. Evelyn J. Omero
  c/o OMERO II Photography
  Calle Real Bldg., J.M. Basa St., Iloilo City
  Tel. # (033) 337-0930
  CP # 0919-6080109 / 0919-8430749
- ***RISE CENTER BOHOL***
  Grnd Flr., QVC Business Plaza, CPG North Ave., Tagbilaran City, Bohol
  Tel. # (038)235-5897/Telefax: (038)235-5896
  CP # 0917-8118079
  Email: *rrreds@pacific.net.ph*
- ***RISE – KALIBO, AKLAN***
  1503 G. Pastrana St., Kalibo Aklan
  Tel. # (036) 262-3562
  CP # 0917-6445180 / 0917-8441050
- ***RISE – NYALA BACOLOD***
  Ms. Maria Suzita "Zitte" Diaz-Ea
  NYALA RENT-A-CAR
  C7 Goldenfields Commercial Complex, Singcang, Bacolod City
  Tel. # (034) 433-1049 / 434-4589
  CP # 0918-9403282
  E-mail: *nyala@wbl.ph*
- ***RISE – MANDAUE CITY, CEBU***
  Mr. Samuel J. Quiño
  801 Albaño St., Subangdaku, Mandaue, Cebu
  Tel. # (032) 345-9711 / 343-6490

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Orientation Seminar: *September 14 to October 7, 2001.*
For information about the seminar schedule in your area, please contact CP # (0916)361-0695.

RISE CEBU CITY
Unit 8 Galleria Fuente, Mango Ave., Cebu City
CP # 0917-3836931

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1 Quantity Surveyor
1 Chief Surveyor
1 Site Manager
1 Services Quantity Surveyor
1 Senior Project Engineer
1 Structural Steel & Cladding Engineer
1 Foreman Concrete Worker

Qualifications:
Graduate of Engineering or equivalent membership in an international association of Engineers; Experience gained from foreign firm in an international setting.

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

2nd INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply and installation of Structured Cabling for high rise office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification and bidding of Contract Package 36B for the new LBP HQ Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule:

Project Title	Estimated Project Cost	Issuance of Prequalification Documents	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 36B: Supply and Installation of Horizontal Structured Cabling	Php 44.0 Million	Sept. 24, 2001 @ 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM	October 3, 2001	Oct. 4, 2001 @ 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM	October 5, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Oct. 12, 2001 @ 10:00 AM

All interested contractors may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the **Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED)**, 2/F LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of **P1,000.00.**

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted at the above-stated office not later than **5:00 PM, September 27, 2001**, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating contractors shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified contractors may secure Bid Documents at the **RMDA Office** located at 2865 Finlandia St., Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P3,500.00.**

Pre-bid conference will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room 2nd Floor, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) sealed envelope system (***envelope "A & B"***) to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 a.m., **October 12, 2001** (the Bidding Date), after which no envelopes will be received. Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2/F LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect on formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Bldg. Project

(PDI - Sept. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers of liquid full cream milk for the bidding of 1,257,600 packs of liquid full cream milk for feeding of Grade 1 entrants in the identified nutritionally depressed areas nationwide. ***The approved budget for the project is P12,000,000.00.***

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting **September 20 to 27, 2001** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Room 112-A Mabini Building, DECS Complex, Pasig City or visit the DECS Website at **http://www.decs.gov.ph.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on **September 27, 2001**, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building 1, DECS Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **October 4, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI – Sept. 22 & 24, 2001)

National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila 1018

GENCO-1

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID (PQ0900RCC-016)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contract Committee (RCC) is inviting Contractors to prequalify and to bid for the **SUPPLY OF MANPOWER SERVICES, SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED, UNSKILLED AND CLERICAL SUPPORT FOR THE OVERHAULING, REHABILITATION, MAINTENANCE AND OFFICE REQUIREMENT OF GENCO-1 OFFICES, PLANTS AND FACILITIES.**

Application for prequalification is open to all Filipino contracting firms with at least one (1) year minimum experience similar/related to the above requirement with valid DTI/SEC certificate. Applicant must be able to prove his Experience, Technical and Financial capacity to perform the works/services called for.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **September 17-28, 2001** at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), Third Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's DTI and/or SEC Certificate, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00)** per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

- Submission of Prequalification Documents - October 3, 2001
- Issuance of Bid Documents - October 17, 2001
- Pre-bid Conference - October 19, 2001
- Submission and Opening of Bids - October 26, 2001

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligations to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager, Professional Services Department
and Chairman, RCC

(PDI – Sept. 15, 20 & 24, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID AD NO. TRANSCO 2001-01

Bidding Date : October 16, 2001 - 10:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference : October 09, 2001 - 2:00 PM
(Sampaguita Room)

TWENTY (20) UNITS - PROTECTION SIGNALING EQUIPMENT (PSE) COMPLETE WITH ALL NECESSARY INTERFACE CABLES

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above using TWO (2) ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm., Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Q.C., upon payment of **P50.00,** submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the Metro Manila telephone directory. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished accreditation forms to participate in this bidding is on **October 3, 2001.**

Bidding documents are available on **September 24** to **October 08, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, and presentation of the certificate of accreditation.**

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents shall be **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM.** For inquiries, please call no. 921-25-74.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Sept. 24, 25 & 27, 2001)

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INVITATION TO BID

The Bank will foreclose and auction the following:

- **EDSA, MAKATI CITY**
  Adjoining lots 2,497 sq.m.
  EDSA cor. Escuela.
  Min. Bid Price: P30,000.00/sq.m.
- **SUCAT ROAD, PARAÑAQUE CITY**
  Lots at Garcia Heights, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.
  Minimum Bid Price: P3,000.00/sq.m.
- **CALATAGAN, BATANGAS RESORT WITH FISHPOND**
  Total area: 20,791 sq.m.,
  S-Pool, Guest House, Fishpond.
  Min. Bid Price: P13 Million

For Particular, Please Call
811-5807 to 14
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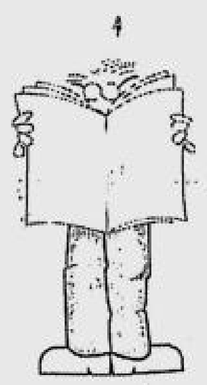

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www.jobmarketonline.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that the following employees are no longer connected with **International Skill Development, Inc. (ISD)** and any transaction entered into by the said individuals shall not, for all legal intents and purposes, be binding to ISD:

Armingol Morales
Romeo Bejer

The above-named employees have no pending case whether administrative, civil or criminal and that this notice is being published in compliance with POEA Rules and Regulations in connection with ISD application for license renewal.

International Skill Development, Inc.
5439 Curie Street, Palanan, Makati City
Phone Nos. 551-7452, 551-7491, 833-1242
Fax No. 551-9675

(PDI - Sept. 24, 2001)

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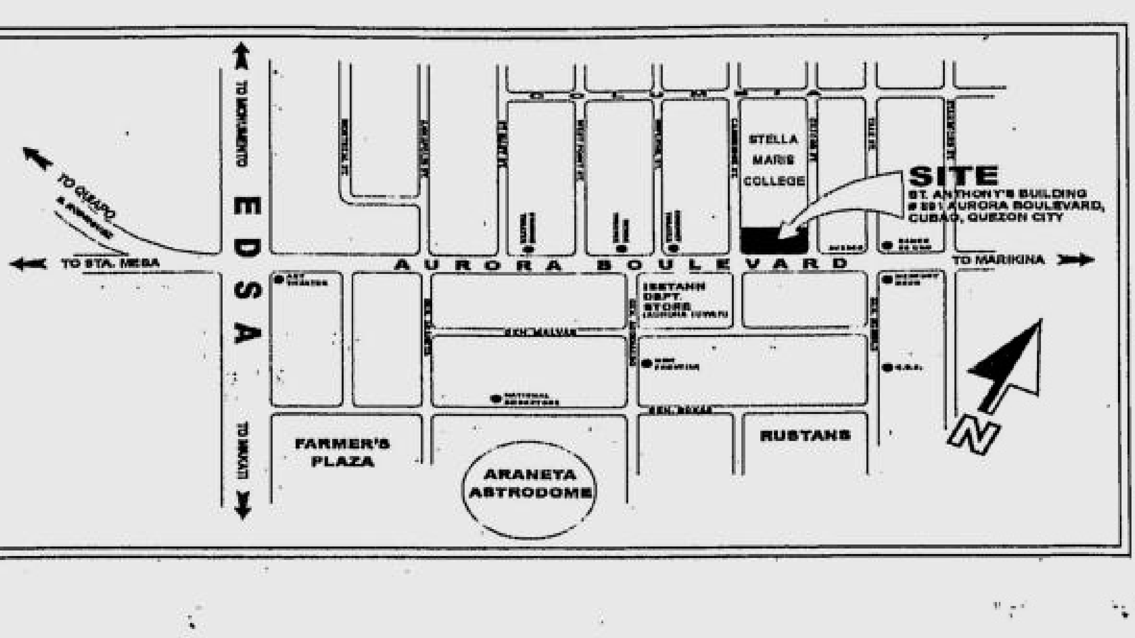


NEW TRADE CLUB MEMBER AP

A worker looks at a big street sign in Chinese saying "Shanghai" on Friday in Shanghai. After 15 years of grueling talks, negotiators last Monday agreed to rules allowing China to join the global trade club. China's government vowed to abide by common trade rules and to open its markets, saying its entry into WTO would boost China's economy and unleash the huge purchasing power of 1.26 billion Chinese.

Morgan Stanley earnings down 43%

NEW YORK—Morgan Stanley Dean Witter & Co. reported a 43 percent plunge in third-quarter earnings Friday as a prolonged stock slump cut trading commissions and investment banking fees, extended the leading Wall Street firm's slide to four straight quarters.

The firm, which was the single largest tenant in the World Trade Center, said its short-term business outlook turned "decisively negative" after the terrorist attacks last week as financial markets absorb the impact.

While nearly all of the firm's 3,700 employees at the twin towers escaped without harm, revenues from trading and investment banking activity are likely to slow further following the attacks, chief financial officer Stephen Crawford told analysts on a conference call.

"It's been an enormous emotional crunch at a difficult time," Crawford said. "We have seen investors remain very patient, taking a wait-and- see attitude with their portfolios . . . (but) it's unlikely that they will pick up until there's more clarity on the economic front."

For the quarter that ended Aug. 31, Morgan Stanley posted net earnings of $705 million, or 62 cents a share, down sharply from $1.25 billion, or $1.09 a share, in the same period a year ago.

Excluding a charge of $30 million for paying down debt, earnings were $735 million, or 65 cents a share, in the latest quarter.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call had forecast earnings of 64 cents a share. Morgan Stanley shares were up 14 cents to $37.76 in midday trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Revenues fell 16 percent to $5.27 billion from $6.31 billion.

The firm expects the disaster to cost in the range of $150 million, much of which will be covered by insurance, Crawford said.

Many of the employees at the twin towers have been relocated, but sales to individual investors have already fallen by 20 percent since the attacks.

Revenues in Morgan Stanley's individual investor division slid 20 percent to $1.1 billion as trading activity by individuals remained "sharply below last year's levels," the firm said in a statement.

For the first nine months of the year, Morgan Stanley had net income of $2.65 billion, a 38-percent decline from $4.25 billion in the same period a year ago. Per-share earnings slid to $2.33 from $3.70. Nine-month revenues were off 15 percent to $17.7 billion from $20.8 billion. *AP*

Microsoft delays game release

SEATTLE—Microsoft Corp. will delay by one week the US release of its Xbox game console system and is refusing to say how many units will be available on the later launch date.

The software giant's planned new computer game system—its first real foray into the hardware business—wil be available Nov. 15, the company said Friday.

John O'Rourke, director of Xbox sales and marketing, refused to give a specific reason for the delay. However, he said the decision had nothing to do with the terrorist attacks and the impact on the nation's economy.

"We just looked at a bunch of things and just simply said, 'You know, Nov. 15 is going to be the right date,"' O'Rourke said. Microsoft also is no longer making firm predictions about how many units will be in stores at launch. Previously, the company said it would ship 600,000 to 800,000 machines for the now-scrapped Nov. 8 launch. O'Rourke said the company was no longer using that number, but wouldn't elaborate.

Instead, he said Microsoft aimed to sell 1 million to 1.5 million units during the holiday season, a number it had previously floated.

Analysts had already speculated that Xbox faced production delays because of a design flaw in the motherboard, the main computer part of the machine. They said the Friday announcement just reinforced that.

"This is clearly a production issue," said P.J. McNealy, a senior researcher who covers games for Gartner.

O'Rourke said the company had begun producing the games, but would not say if there were production problems.

This is the latest setback for Microsoft's game system, which will sell for about $299.

In August, the company said it was delaying until Feb. 22 the Asian release of Xbox, originally slated for this fall.

The company has not said how many units it hopes to ship for the Asia launch—the home turf of powerful rivals Sony Corp. and Nintendo Co.

The delayed release gives Microsoft only a few days lead time on Nintendo, whose GameCube goes on sale in the United States Nov. 18. *AP*

Singapore bank cuts lending rate

SINGAPORE—United Overseas Bank Ltd. (UOB), Singapore's largest lender, said on Saturday that it would cut its prime lending rate by half a percentage point to 5 percent per year starting Monday.

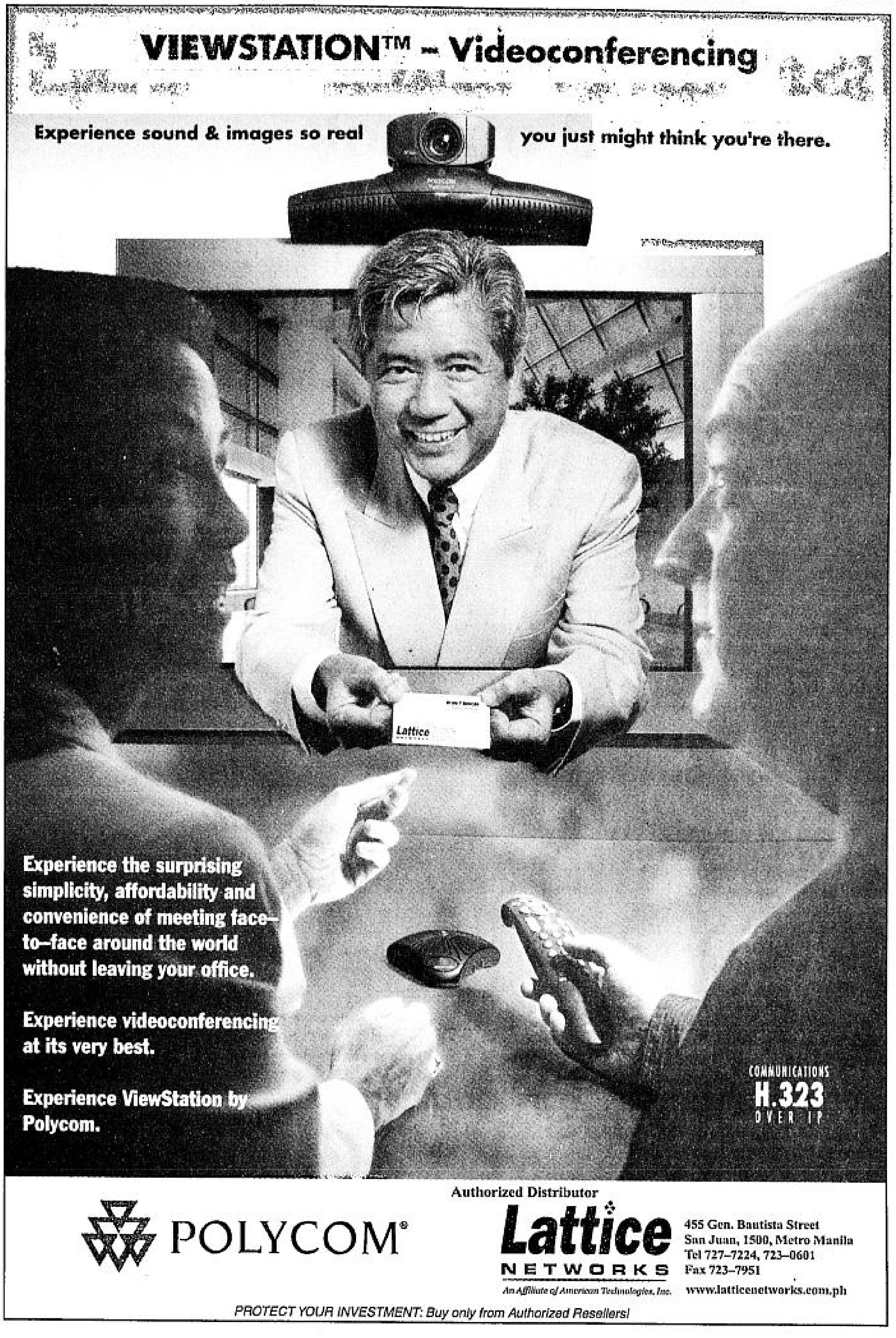
Fixed deposit interest rates would be lowered to 2 percent from 2.5 percent, UOB said in a statement.

The bank, which recently took over domestic rival Overseas Union Bank, will lower interest rates on other savings accounts by between three-eighths and one-half of a percentage point.

The Consumer Association of Singapore had urged banks on Thursday to help boost consumer confidence by cutting prime lending rates.

The consumer watchdog said prime rates had not been revised for almost three years despite a fall of interbank rates, the rate banks pay to obtain their funds.

The prime rate, now around 5 to 5.5 percent, serves as a benchmark for loans to retail customers. *Reuters*



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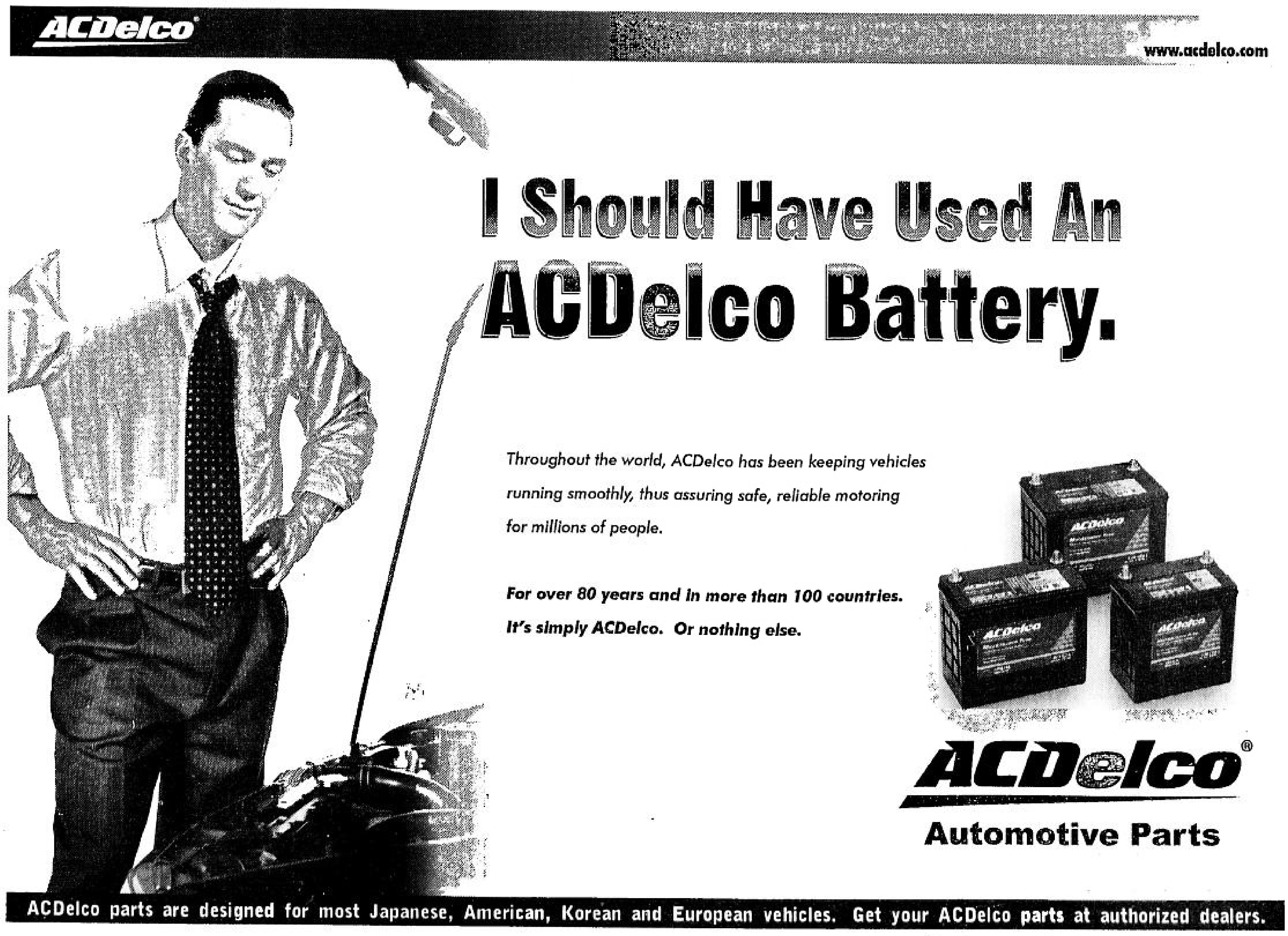

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₱36B worth of deals OKd at 10th MBC

COTABATO CITY—Participants of the 10th Mindanao Business Conference presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday some P36.35 billion worth of business agreements forged during the gathering that local traders dubbed as the "rebirth" of the East Asian Growth Area.

Hundreds of investors from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore attended the two-day business conference at Estosan Garden Hotel. The conference ended with the signing of at least seven major memoranda of agreement and joint ventures, mostly in agriculture.

The joint venture agreements were forged among Filipino, Malaysian and Singaporean traders and centered mostly on palm oil plantation projects and orchard projects in war-torn Matanog, Maguindanao.

The President urged Mindanao business leaders to help find solutions to the many challenges of peace, development and justice in a speech during the closing rites of the conference.

"I ask you to sustain the determined, cooperative and constructive attitude that you have shown all these years," the President said.

"I would like the business community to show its cooperation by exploiting the opportunities created by government investments, infrastructure and agriculture modernization," the President added.

"I would like the business community in Mindanao to cross the bridges we are building to the Asian markets through the BIMP-Eaga. I would like you to vote for peace with your investments in the development of Mindanao," said Ms Macapagal, who earlier inaugurated one of Mindanao's flagship projects—the Japanese funded Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation dam in North Cotabato.

Two Muslim leaders said Moro communities could still be an investment destination despite negative reports about their peace and order situation.

Sultan Kudarat is now preparing for the launching of the $75 million worth of ship dismantling project to be undertaken by a consortium of foreign traders. The Datu Paglas town, for its part, is hosting one of the country's leading banana exporters.

"We have shown the world that Cotabato City and Central Mindanao are peaceful and investment-friendly," said Tony Santos, PCCI governor for Central Mindanao.

Still, Santos presented to the President several resolutions adopted by businessmen during the Minbizcon. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BSP survey shows bearish Q3 outlook

By Clarissa S. Batino

BUSINESS confidence in Metro Manila continued to deteriorate due to political uncertainties and the slowdown in the economies of the country's major trading partners, a survey conducted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

The BSP survey, conducted in July, focused on the sentiments and outlook for the third quarter of Metro Manila-based companies. It covered 12 major industry groups with respondent companies drawn from Manila's top 3,000 corporations. A total of 177 companies responded to the survey, representing a 35-percent response rate.

The central bank said the unresolved hostage crisis in Mindanao, the volatility of the foreign exchange market, and the slowdown of the US and Japan economies has contributed to the poor business outlook for the third quarter.

"The results indicate a bearish economic outlook for the third quarter. By contrast, expectations on key leading indicators point to a more positive business outlook in the fourth quarter," said the BSP in a statement.

The recent survey has not taken into account the impact on local businesses of the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11.

The BSP noted that a previous survey had shown a more positive business outlook for the third quarter. But the business sentiment has apparently changed as reflected in the July survey of the BSP.

Among the factors cited by respondents for their bearish outlook were insufficient demand, high interest rates and "unclear" economic laws.

The BSP said the respondents could be referring to high lending rates imposed by banks and not the central bank's. It said the BSP's overnight rates at the time of the survey were already lower compared with their year-ago levels.

The survey showed that out of the 177 respondents, only 23.2 percent said they were willing to expand this year.

"Although the business outlook for the fourth quarter is better than the third quarter outlook, the optimism is not enough to warrant significant acquisition of fixed assets for longer-term expansion," the BSP noted.

The survey result also showed that there was no need for expansion in the manufacturing sector since existing capacities and resources seemed enough to expand production.

Responses for the fourth quarter showed a more positive outlook on account of an expected increase in the volume of production, importation, and business activity.

Congress urged to exclude tax cases from bill

THE CAPITAL Market Development Council has asked Congress to drop tax evasion from a list of crimes covered by the proposed anti-money-laundering bill.

It also urged Congress not to require a court order before authorities can look into suspicious bank accounts or other financial transactions.

The council is led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura. It counts as members representatives from the Insurance Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the private sector, including the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Stock Exchange, the Financial Executives of the Philippines (Finex), the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines and the Money Market Association of the Philippines.

The council, in a meeting last Wednesday, decided that tax evasion should be dropped because only the Bureau of Internal Revenue was competent enough to establish if there was a tax-evasion case. The move is also aimed at reassuring the business community that derogatory findings would not be used to build a new case (tax evasion) against them.

If Congress drops this, only dirty money coming from drug trafficking, kidnapping, graft and corruption, and plunder will likely be covered by the bill.

On the court order requirement, which is in the House version but not in the Senate bill, the council said three major points argue against this:

- It makes bank deposit secrecy stricter than it is at present and, hence, will likely be rejected by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the international body that has given countries that have not made money laundering a crime until the end of this month to do so.
- Any application by the board with the courts to look into suspicious account would make the records public and hence potentially breach unnecessarily the confidentiality of the inquiry and unduly expose a depositor to public scrutiny.
- The court order requirement will most likely stop inquiries in their tracks through a temporary restraining order. As a result, the board will most likely end up fighting in the courts over the TROs instead of focusing on its main responsibility.

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BUSINESS *Monday*
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH RICO AND BERNIE

Putting pun and fun into financial news

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

HIZON is one of only a handful of Filipino broadcast journalists who have landed the international news networks. Ultimately he wants to enter into public service, with perhaps the presidency as a possible stop?

WHEN the hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade twin towers, a colleague immediately called Rico Hizon to ask if he had heard the news. His quick response was, "What? The US market crashed?"

His knee jerk reaction just goes to show that financial news are ingrained in Hizon's mind. After all, he has been reading, speaking and breathing business developments on television for the last 12 years.

He started his TV career with losing senatorial bet Dong Puno's morning show called Business Today. He then moved to Asia Business News in Hong Kong and joined CNBC when ABN merged with the Singapore-based network.

It felt funny to be interviewing someone you first knew as a teener, then as a colleague covering business news in Manila. But what did come across was Hizon's maturity.

He has evolved into an anchor who knows his subjects well. And he projects this image well as Filipinos who bump into him would always ask for his advice on investments.

Hizon starts his day at 3:30 a.m. But he is neither groggy nor moody at this hour.

"People have told me they hate me because I am so happy at six in the morning," he tells two journalists from Manila during a casual interview (which lasted four hours) at the Fullerton Hotel in Singapore.

The 35-year-old says he is lucky he can get by with only four hours of sleep at night. It also helps that he is a morning person. He is at his peak until about 1 p.m. after which he has to take a nap.

Many Filipinos get to see Hizon as CNBC is aired in the Philippines for free, unlike the rest of the world that receives CNBC via cable.

The Entertainment Network, a new local company focused on providing program materials through its Singaporean partner struck a deal with Channel 11 owned by ZOE Broadcasting Network Inc. to air CNBC.

EN is headed by Greg D. Garcia, a veteran in the advertising and marketing field.

Hizon has three programs—he does the 6 a.m. report, which includes a wrap of the US markets, then he reports on sports news.

PUTTING/ C6

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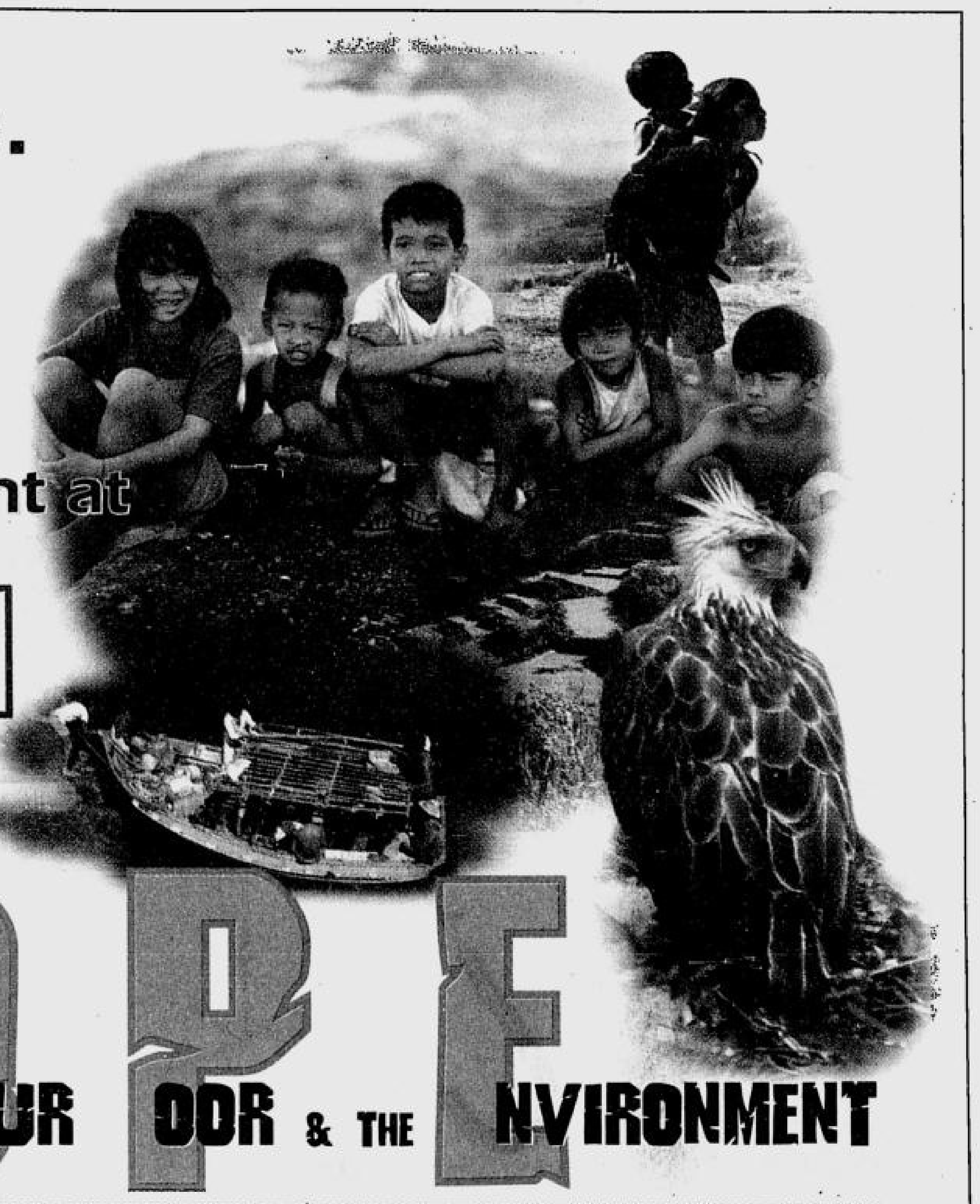

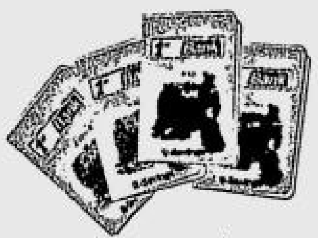

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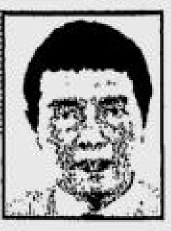
Innovation in procurement using Internet technology

MAPPING THE FUTURE



Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

PROCUREMENT management is concerned with the timely and cost-effective acquisition of goods and/or services.

Procurement cost is not limited to the purchase price of an item or service. There are multiple costs that have to be considered:

1. Producing the good or service
2. Selling
3. Searching selection and ordering
4. Mismatch between requirements and the goods/services purchased
5. Inability to find the most cost-effective vendor
6. Transport inventory and display
7. Implementation, use, and maintenance

Goods and services are the objects of procurement. However, their production cost is often just a small part of the buyer's total cost of ownership. Frequently you end up paying more for illusions and commissions.

In order to find buyers (or help buyers find products) and convince them to buy products and services, significant selling effort and cost are incurred. These selling costs include advertising, promotion, sales salaries, expenses, commissions, brochures and presentations, entertainment, gifts, bribes and order processing.

The buyers incur significant purchasing costs that are not part of what they pay their vendors. These costs include searching costs, selection costs and ordering costs. Searching costs include attending exhibits and conventions, shopping, calling and mailing, and surfing on the Internet.

Selection costs include requirement definition, reading white papers, articles, brochures, attending presentations and demos, cost benefit analysis, and decision-making and negotiation.

Ordering costs include finalizing terms and conditions, getting approvals, generating and sending POs, and following up, receiving and making payments.

Many companies and governments end up wasting a lot of money, effort and resources because of a mismatch between true requirements and the goods and services purchased. There are a variety of mismatches such as buying functionality that is not required, buying something that cannot meet requirements, buying too much and too early, and buying too little and/or too late.

Another reason why procurement cost may be higher than desired could be the result of not finding the most cost-effective vendor. Due to inadequate search or bias, you may be paying significantly more.

There is a point beyond, which further search and analysis do not produce enough improvement. Goods and services have to be made available as needed. Logistics costs include transport, inventory, warehousing and display. And finally, there are the costs of implementation, use and maintenance.

Traditional Supply Chain

Manufacturers have traditionally used distributors, wholesalers and retailers to sell goods to consumers. They have sold to businesses through wholesalers and resellers. This retail supply chain model has been successful because it:

- Lessens the cost of finding and selling to customers
- Reduces the buyer's search costs
- Reduces the cost of transportation
- Reduces production cost by creating a larger volume

On the other hand, this model has significant costs.

- Investment and operation of stores
- Inventory
- Commissions or margins for several players in the value chain

When Jeff Bezos created Amazon.com he used the Internet to reinvent the book selling business. He quickly started selling books worldwide by enabling hundreds of thousands of book buyers to shop for books from their offices or homes by browsing the Amazon.com website.

- Amazon.com dramatically reduced the cost of reaching customers worldwide.
- It also reduced customer search costs.
- It eliminated the cost of stores.

Its main new cost is the cost of delivery and a slight delay.

Restructuring the supply chain

The Internet and the Web make it possible for vendors to bypass layers of intermediaries and reach out to customers worldwide at very low cost.

This is dramatized by how Amazon.com very quickly became a major worldwide bookseller bypassing wholesalers and retailers. The Internet and the Web also dramatically increase buyers search capabilities.

It is much easier for them to find the goods and services they need and to obtain better prices. As a result, intermediaries that do not add sufficient value will disappear.

INNOVATION/ C3

Terrorist acts impact on global reinsurance markets

By Reynaldo A. de Dios

THE DESTRUCTION of the World Trade Center twin towers in New York City and the loss of thousands of lives are beyond the wildest imagination of insurance underwriters.

This inhuman act of terrorism will gravely impact on the resources of the global insurance industry as a great number of the major insurers and reinsurers in the United States, London including Lloyd's, Europe and Bermuda are involved.

Practically all the major insurance and reinsurance companies are involved because not one firm can cover the risk of highly valued properties such as the World Trade Center, which consists of two 110-story towers built at a cost of $750 million from 1969-1973.

Furthermore, the non-life sector will have to indemnify the claimants under Workmen's Compensation insurance as well as damage to the office furniture, fixtures and equipment contained in the center. This also includes vehicles parked in the underground parking and in the vicinity that are insured against acts of terrorism.

The aviation insurance markets, worldwide, will be accountable for the loss of all the hijacked aircraft plus legal liability to all the passengers and crew.

Not to be overlooked is the life insurance industry, which will have to pay out billions of dollars as approximately 50,000 employees work in the center. It is certain that most of these workers carry individual life and personal accident policies in addition to coverage under group life policies and membership in the Social Security System.

Also to be covered are the lives of several hundred brave firemen and policemen who responded quickly to assist in rescue operations who have either perished or were seriously injured when the towers suddenly collapsed.

An immediate consequence of this unprecedented disaster was the reduction in the value of the equities of the top insurers and reinsurers listed in the London Stock Exchange, declining by an average of 11 percent.

The perception is that they will be responsible for a good share of the insurance payouts.

In the Philippines, not all the commercial high rise buildings and hotels are covered for loss or damage attributable to acts of terrorism.

Another consequence of this disaster is the probable hardening or increase of rates for reinsurance protection in the next renewal not only in the Philippines but in the global marketplace.

Obviously, the globalization of world trade represented by the World Trade Center, a symbol of New York's role as the premier financial capital, also means the globalization of terrorism.

(The author is a risk and insurance management consultant.)

Informatica holds soft launch

INFORMATICA Corp., through its master distributor for Southeast Asia, Info Alchemy Corporation, recently conducted a soft hunch and the first of a series of seminars with banks, insurance companies and other financial institution. The seminar, which aims to introduce Informatica's powerful data integration platform and family of analytic applications, was considered a success with over 20 banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions in attendance.

George Inocencio, managing director of Info Alchemy, said that they have chosen banks and other financial institutions for this first seminar because data integration is a necessity to this industry. "Informatica's powerful data integration capabilities enable banks and other companies to optimize their IT investments by extracting and transforming voluminous data from multiple platforms." Inocencio added that "this data integration capability is particularly significant for banks, which purchased best-of-breed products for their various business systems, as well as for those which acquired or merged with other banks, where the different components often have non-compatible systems and platforms."

Elmer Gulle, regional manager for Asia of Informatica International, said that intelligent management of critical data in a dynamic industry is a must in today's competitive world. He added that "Having complete, accurate and timely information enables top management to gain business insight, which can spell the difference between being No. 1 and being at the bottom of the heap." Informatica helps companies achieve business insight by allowing for a unified 360-degrees view of their customers across their numerous product lines, proactive management of financial products to maximize profits, and balance between operating costs

INFORMATICA/ C8

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Trading places in a Makati hotel

NENUCA Velez, quality and standard assurance manager, answers queries at the Lobby Shop.

COMPTROLLER Danilo Hormillosa seeks help manning his post as a front office receptionist from colleagues.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANDARIN Oriental general manager Helmut Gaisberger realized that guests almost never look at the face of the people opening doors for them when they enter the hotel, or acknowledge their greeting.

Gaisberger knows whereof he speaks because for about four hours earlier this month, Gaisberger took off his suit and donned the red coat and the red cap worn by Mandarin's doormen as part of the Mandarin's Job Swap program.

Under the program, members of the Mandarin Oriental's executive committee traded places with rank-and-file employees to know what their work was like and the nature of their responsibilities.

He manned his post just like any other doorman, and he was surprised that friends and long-time guests that he knew personally did not recognize him, and it was because they never looked at his face.

"For those who did look at me, they break out in laughter. I realize now that it is quite a challenge to stand out there in the heat and to try to be nice all the time even if people don't really notice you. We should find a way to motivate our doormen in a different way and not just tell them to be nice and friendly," Gaisberger says.

TRADING/ C4

JOB SWAP. Members of Mandarin Oriental Manila's executive committee just before they try out their new jobs.

Innovation . . .

(From page C2)

However, in their place will rise new Web-based intermediaries.

What will sell on the Web?

Whereas many technopreneurs dream of a future where all business will take place on the Web there are some realities we have to face. Not all products and services will completely thrive on the Web.

It is useful to consider some ideas from "Rethinking the Sales Force." Neil Rachman and John de Vincents suggest that there are three distinct sales models such as transaction selling, consultative selling and enterprise selling.

And that there are three types of customers: intrinsic value customer, extrinsic value customer and strategic value customer.

Transaction selling is suited for products whose characteristics are standard, well understood and readily substitutable.

In transaction selling, key buyers' concerns and decision criteria include price availability, ease of acquisition and risk. These characteristics are often found in MRO (maintenance, repair and office) items, which are usually sold on the Web. Buyers may be characterized as intrinsic value buyers.

Consultative selling is matched to extrinsic value buyers. Consultative selling is needed when products are differentiated, customizable and have hidden capabilities. Extrinsic value customers are concerned with importance of the problem, solution fit and price performance trade-offs.

Enterprise selling matches strategic value buyers. Products and services involved have high strategic value or very significant costs. Strategic value buyers are concerned with competitive advantage, sustainability, return on investment, value fit and platform fit.

While information technology is useful for the three selling models, the transaction selling model is the most applicable for the online e-commerce that many envision.

The Internet would be very useful for communication and coordination in consultative selling and enterprise selling. Similarly, the use of information systems for analysis and planning would be very important.

Evolution of Internet

The use of electronics in procurement started with the telegraph and the telephone a very long time ago. About 25 years ago, EDI came into the picture. EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) refers to the exchange of electronic documents between trading partners. EDI involved computers, communications, software and document standards. Its use has been typically limited to large corporations because of the high cost.

The Internet and the Web have broken the cost barrier, and procurement applications have proliferated. The use of the Internet in procurement include:

1. Application Technology
    - e-mail
    - groupware
    - websites
    - shopping carts
    - marketplaces
2. Function
    - communication
    - collaboration
    - brochureware and catalogs
    - transactions
    - auctions
    - catalog aggregation
    - exchange
    - workflow
    - e-Procurement

Those involved in procurement activities should at the very least have e-mail and Internet access. E-mail significantly reduces the cost of communications with existing and potential suppliers.

Request for information and pricing can definitely be sent anywhere on earth at much lower cost than fax or phone, and much faster than mail.

Suppliers can respond faster, even provide detailed and graphic product descriptions at very low cost. With Internet access, users and buyers can browse the Net to find products and services without the need to make phone calls, write or travel.

The Internet provides very useful search functionality. With the enactment of the e-Commerce Law, it is now possible to electronically exchange legally binding transaction documents such as POs, invoices, etc.

Government price list

One possible strategy for major procurement savings would be for the Department of Budget and Management to conduct national bidding for commonly used MRO items.

The selected vendors should preferably have nationwide presence or delivery. Government agencies would be able to determine best sources for their requirements at fixed prices through the DBM MRO website.

This strategy would generate tremendous saving for government including lower purchase price, minimized search and selection cost, and reduced transport and inventory cost.

Government agencies would have the option to buy from alternate suppliers with lower prices. However, they would have a hard time justifying purchase at a higher price since the government prices would be on the Web for auditors to compare.

Interested NGOs such as Procurement Watch could also monitor compliance.

Lower purchase price

The government will get lower purchase prices, since suppliers will be bidding for a large volume, will not have to go through hundreds of individual proposals, presentations, follow ups, and would be shielded from pressure for entertainment, gifts and bribes.

Instead of having hundreds of agencies and offices looking for sources canvassing prices, and evaluating alternatives, all of these would be done centrally by the DBM. Due to the large volume that will be handled, the DBM will be able to have specialists for different product lines.

The government should look into alternative vendor models and into their full cost. Buying directly from manufacturers would result in the lowest purchase price. But there would be significant costs in warehousing, distribution, order processing and delivery, which should be considered. Furthermore, government will probably not be very efficient at performing the required logistics functions.

For some requirements, such as office supplies, a national retail chain could be a good alternative. The purchase price would be higher than what the manufacturers offer but the retailer already performs the warehouse, distribution and order processing functions.

If there are sufficient stores nationwide, then the cost of pick up may be tolerable. The best alternative might be to use aggregators.

The aggregator would provide aggregated catalogs, purchase from manufacturers, warehouse, and accept orders on the Web by email, fax or phone, and delivery to offices.

Since the aggregator does not have retail outlets, it could have lower selling prices. Delivery charges could be lower than the total cost of shopping and pick up by the government agency. To avoid the danger of a single point of failure, the government could authorize a small number of aggregators who can guarantee competitive prices.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, president of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. and member of the Board of Trustees of De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

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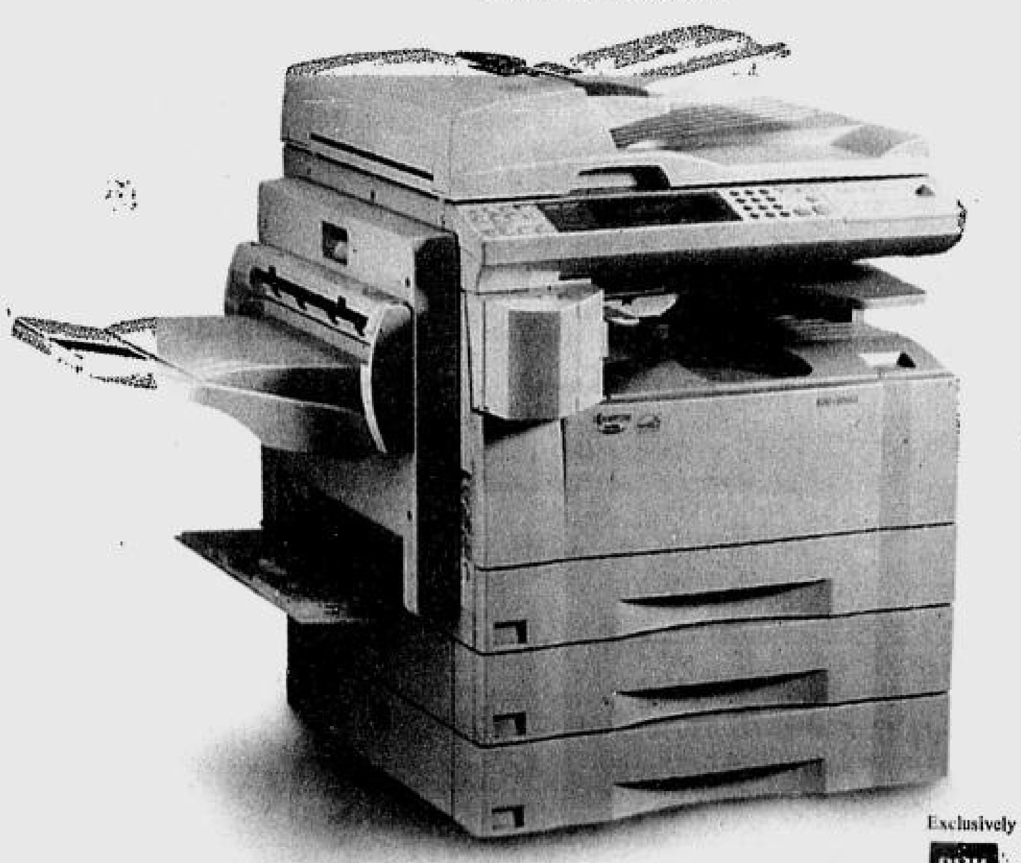

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US terrorist attacks also hit RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES has been tagged as one of the countries most exposed to the slowdown in the US economy, which is expected to slacken further following the terrorist attacks on American landmarks.

The Philippines ranked No. 4 among emerging economies—behind Nigeria, Malaysia, Mexico—whose growth and international reserves are dependent on the US economy.

Other Asian countries in the top 10 most vulnerable countries are Thailand, Korea and Indonesia.

According to a study by investment firm ING Barings, the attacks on the US would have differential impact on emerging markets depending on the extent of their links to the US economy as measured by exports; the immediate requirement for refinancing to meet maturing debt; and the commodity structure of trade wherein oil exporters would benefit while importers would suffer.

Although it noted that it was impossible to judge the ultimate scale and damage from the response of the US and any counter-retaliation by the perpetrators, ING Barings said the attacks were likely to lead to lower economic activity due to higher oil prices, lower capital expenditure, and plunge in business and consumer confidence.

While the US defense, oil and construction firms would benefit from higher government spending, ING Barings said the "unprecedented nature of the attacks" would dampen the transportation, financial, and insurance sectors.

Based on its forecasts, ING Barings said investors would push up prices of oil, gold and other strategic metals aside from dumping stocks and sovereign bonds of vulnerable emerging countries to go to cash and bonds.

And among the emerging markets that would suffer from retreating investor sentiment is the Philippines, which ranked high among ING Barings' list of most vulnerable countries.

ING Barings based its rankings on how much of a country's exports go to the US and how important exports were to a country's growth as measured by gross domestic product (GDP).

Export economies that ship most of their products to the US are the most vulnerable to the further weakening of the US economy while countries with closed economies or dependent on domestic would be left unscathed.

ING Barings also charted the effect of a 10-percent change in export shipments to the US to determine the vulnerability of emerging economies' international reserves based on the magnitude of their dependence on the US economy.

This was meant to show potential liquidity problems arising from trade linkages with the US that could have a potential impact on balance of payments.

Based on this listing, the Philippines ranked No. 4 anew among the most countries most susceptible to a recession in the US economy behind Mexico, Ecuador and Venezuela.

Malaysia was the only other Asian country on the list and it was ranked sixth.

With fewer dollars coming in from reduced demand for its exports from the US, the Philippines will be forced to dig deep into its pockets to keep its local currency stable.'

Although the Philippines and Malaysia were tagged as the most vulnerable in the region on both rankings, Malaysia was better off than the Philippines because it was a net oil exporter.

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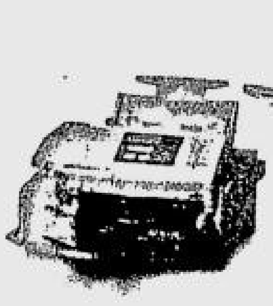
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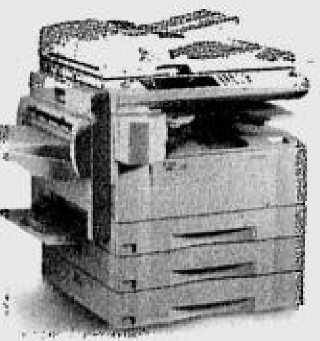
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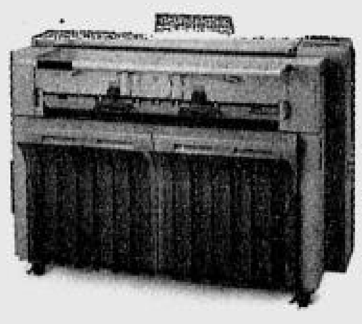
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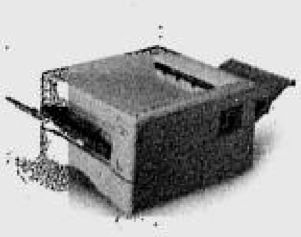
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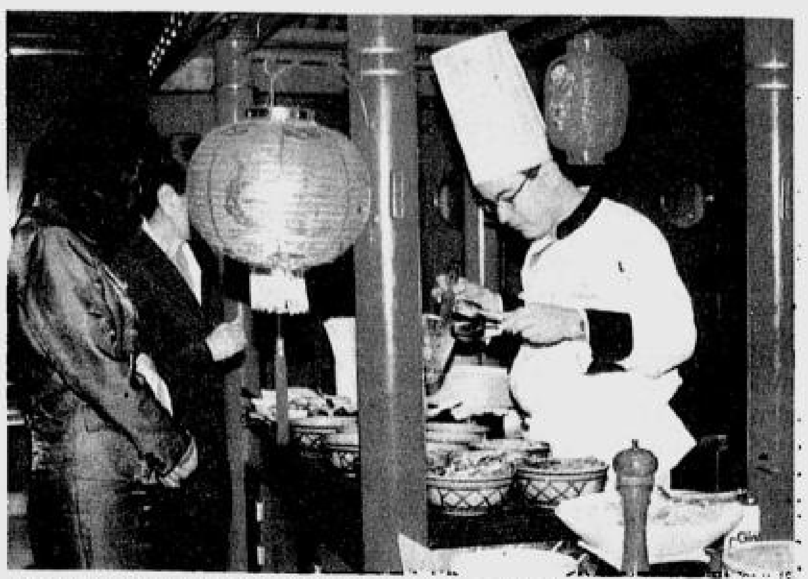
FOOD and beverage director Daniel Dolatre as The Brasserie's soup station chef

Trading places in a Makati hotel

(From page C3)

He explains that getting insights into the workload and challenges faced by the rank and file employees was one of the motivations behind the Mandarin group's decision to launch the Job Swap program.

It is part of the hotel's Legendary Quality Experience program to implement and enhance the hotel's mission to "completely delight and satisfy its guests."

Mandarin human resource manager Josie Arriola says the LQE does not only mean improving relations with guests, but also improving relations between the management and staff of the hotel.

Gaisberger became a doorman. Resident manager David Baldwan became a bell hop. Gary Croxford of the engineering group parked cars. Arriola was stationed as a receptionist at the Tin Hau, public relations manager Charisse Chuidian was assigned to The Tivoli, rooms director Gigi Vega and sales director Alu Suarez served guests at The Captain's Bar.

The Mandarin Oriental's accounting chief Danny Hormillosa, together with housekeeping head Salva Catacutan, stayed at the front desk while F&B director Daniel Dolatre tried out his cooking skill as one of the chefs at the Brasserie. Quality and standard assurance manager Nenuca Velez, meanwhile, handled transactions at The Lobby Shop.

They worked during the peak hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. after getting a crash course from their colleagues. They attended to the guests first hand, nervous at first, but then got the hang of it with the full support of the staff.

"I feel that we should do it at least twice a year because it is important for the staff to see that management is proactive. By doing this, we can see a lot of things for ourselves and so we can discuss things more openly with them," Gaisberger says.

DIRECTOR of engineering, Gary Croxford, tries his expertise as a valet parker.

HELMUT Gaisberger, general manager, in his role as a doorman.

COMMUNICATIONS director Charisse Chuidian pulls it off as The Tivoli's receptionist.

HUMAN resource director Josie Arriola cleans up a table at Tin Hau

ROOMS director Gigi Vega offers top rate hospitality at the Captain's Bar.

Building better alliances

WITH alliances or mergers accounting for more and more of companies' market value, effective alliance management has never been more important. Yet nearly half of these strategic partnerships fail.

Here's how to create a lasting relationship.

An alliance manager at a major company was recently asked how he felt about his job, whether the appropriate incentives were in place for him and his team. "Well, I guess so," he mused. "My boss says that if I do good work while tending to this alliance for a while, I can eventually go back to my real job."

If executives still regard alliance management as something akin to administering castor oil, awful stuff but good for you in the long run, it's little wonder that roughly half of all strategic alliances formed today either fail or dramatically underperform.

It's not that alliances are suddenly out of favor. Far from it. Alliances remain important engines for change and growth; roughly 10,200 alliances were formed worldwide in 2000, compared with approximately 8,600 in 1999.

Management enthusiasm for alliances, moreover, is undiminished. In a recent executive survey conducted by Accenture, 25 percent of respondents reported that alliances account for 15 percent or more of their company's current market value. Almost one-third of the executives believe that alliances will account for 25 percent or more of their company's market value by 2005.

We estimate that by 2004, alliances will represent somewhere between $25 trillion and $40 trillion in total value.

So how does one account for the failure rate of alliances, which is currently running at an alarming 40 percent to 50 percent? With so much at stake, why is alliance stewardship apparently so lax? What do companies need to do to create an effective alliance capability?

Managing relationships

Alliances over the past few years largely have been about getting into the game. But with as much as $40 trillion at risk, that's no longer good enough. Today companies need to know how to win.

Winning starts with the right mindset. Too many companies fail to understand the true nature of alliances. Because an alliance is about the interaction between two or more companies, executives may think about alliances the same way they think about a merger or an acquisition.

But although there are similarities between alliances and M&A work, they actually obscure the more basic and fundamental difference: A merger is an event; an alliance is a process.

Thus, a merger is an end in itself, whereas an alliance is a means toward an end.

Companies that view alliances as events focus too much on the contract, on making the deal.

Their best people are assigned to make the best deal possible, perpetuating the almost mythic role of the deal maker as mover and shaker.

Once the deal is made, however, the glamour fades and the talent moves on to the next deal.

Those left behind in the role of alliance managers are often marginalized. Indeed, until quite recently, many executives viewed this assignment as something like corporate exile.

Focusing on the demands of the deal at the expense of the process means that companies fail to develop a true alliance capability, which is about managing a relationship.

'The devil made me do it'

Why do alliances fail? The list of frequently cited reasons is long: "The technology involved was immature." "The marketplace was uncertain." "There were strategic shifts." "It wasn't really anyone's fault." "The devil made me do it."

Sometimes people give the reason for failure a fancy name: "exogenous change." Loosely translated, that means "stuff happens." Things occur outside the control of the company that mean that the core of the alliance no longer makes sense. Or, less charitably, "My alliance partner blew it." (Human nature is such that people seldom acknowledge their own responsibility for an alliance coming unglued.)

The true causes of alliance failure can often be hidden behind their inherently risky nature. In the pharmaceuticals industry, for example, a drug in

BUILDING/ C6

Big tastes defy big brands' global hunger

ZURICH—Pop a piece of chocolate into your mouth, and whether you roll your eyes in delight or spit it out in disgust may very well depend on if the sweet is a local brand your taste buds have come to know and love.

Swedes swoon over Marabou where a Briton will bite into Cadbury Dairy Milk and a Swiss will insist on Nestle's Cailler.

Fond memories of the food mother used to buy will keep local products a fixture in the food industry despite an onslaught by powerful global brands backed by deep-pocketed multinational companies, sector experts say.

In fact, these same companies often use brands, which are strongly established in purely local markets as a springboard to launch premium imported products and stave off competition from rivals.

"There is clearly a chance of survival for well-introduced, traditional brands. The emotional link that people have, especially in food categories, is with traditional brands, not with the new ones," said Francois Perroud, spokesperson for Nestle, the world's biggest food company.

"The more traditional it is, the stronger the link, regardless of the owner or the technology. It is precisely the combination of strong global brands and local product denominations that will make for the success of a food company."

Global brands, in contrast, tend to shine when filling a vacuum for non-traditional products that mother would never even have thought of buying. The fact that people cook at home less often means more people are experimenting with new tastes,

Brands like trendy coffee shop chain Starbucks now expanding in Europe, are a new phenomenon that don't often find a local product to replace, said Kieran Mahon, a financial analyst at Schroder Salomon Smith Barney in London.

Older global brands like Coca-Cola or Nestle's Nescafe have also enjoyed huge success over the years.

"The point I would make, however, is that they basically provided a new product to those markets. There weren't really any significant incumbents in that space," he added.

"When you come across an indigenous product category or a generic product category like chocolate, you have found that people's tastes are very traditional and that a well supported, well-founded local player . . . can certainly subsidize the marketing 'spend' in that market to match the majors and maintain (market) share."

Nestle's Russian chocolate Rossiya is a case in point, a brand that lets Nestle carve out a big market share and create a platform for other sales. It has also benefited from a devaluation that priced chocolate imports out of reach for many.

In contrast, confectionery from British rival Cadbury Schweppes has labored to catch hold in Russia.

"It is simply coming at that market from a premium import perspective and has less than two or three percentage points of the market as a result. It is simply completely outscaled by Nestle's overall presence in that marketplace," Mahon said.

"I find Western chocolates to be a bit too sweet and artificial, especially the candy bars. You can tell there is very little actual chocolate there," one Russian sniffed.

But Russian chocolate "tastes very rich. You cannot eat more than a few bits," she added. "That is why they have problems exporting it, because it is so bloody good."

For one Briton who has lived in Moscow, however, "all Russian chocolate tastes slightly musty, because you never get it fresh . . . It always has that white bloom on it. Russians like it because it reminds them of their childhood."

Local tastes to satisfy

Alex Batchelor, managing director at London-based consultancy Interbrand, noted that many companies were seeking economies of scale by unifying under one brand the same product sold under separate labels in different countries.

Mars's Marathon candy bar in Britain thus became Snickers and its Raider bar evolved into Twix. But that does not change the fact there will always be local tastes to satisfy.

"It may be more homogenous now than it ever was, but I don't think that is an inexorable process. I don't think its natural end is that we all eat the same stuff be it in Shanghai or Stockholm or Sao Paolo because fundamentally that is not going to happen," Batchelor said.

Starbucks spokesperson Christoph Richterlich said the US-based company's rollout in Switzerland has gone well.

"At the start there was a certain amount of criticism from consumer organizations who are afraid of big chains, but this was always the case. It was the same with McDonalds when they came to Switzerland," he said.

"But basically consumers, the public and the media have shown a lot of interest and the response has been positive."

George Wallace, chief executive of the London-based retailing experts Management Horizons Europe, dismissed the idea that a consumer backlash would hurt massive global brands.

"My own feeling is that while they are fairly mature and cannot expect huge increases . . . they are here to stay and to grow, especially growing in developing markets," he said.

"I do think there is an opportunity for smaller, more focused, more speciality brands, particularly in high-quality perishable foods, whether in dairy products, meat, organic or GM-free," he added, referring to genetically modified foods that have not won over some consumers worried about potential risks.

Specialist products

A big supermarket might now carry 15,000 to 20,000 food and grocery lines, double the number of a decade ago.

"That means there are many more specialist products in there, and that opens the door to more specialized brands that are operating with much lower volumes," he said.

Retailers like them because profit margins can be 25 to 30 percent compared with 15 to 20 percent for big-name washing powders.

Many consumers remain blissfully unaware that many local brands are in fact owned by big multinational companies.

"I'm sure there are few French people who know that Boursin (cheese) belongs to Unilever. They would bet their fortune that this belongs to a French company," said Eric Combelles, a project account manager at Euromonitor.

But the Anglo-Dutch consumer good group was wise enough to leave Boursin—known for its "du pain, du vin, du Boursin" motto—basically intact, a strategy it is likely to repeat at Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc, the US ice cream maker whose homespun ways attracted a cult-like following, he said.

This was in marked contrast to its takeover of Bestfoods Inc., which Unilever broke into pieces, ate and digested. It is selling off secondary Bestfoods brands, which it bought as part of its strategy to slash its stable of brands to 400 from 1,600. *Reuters*

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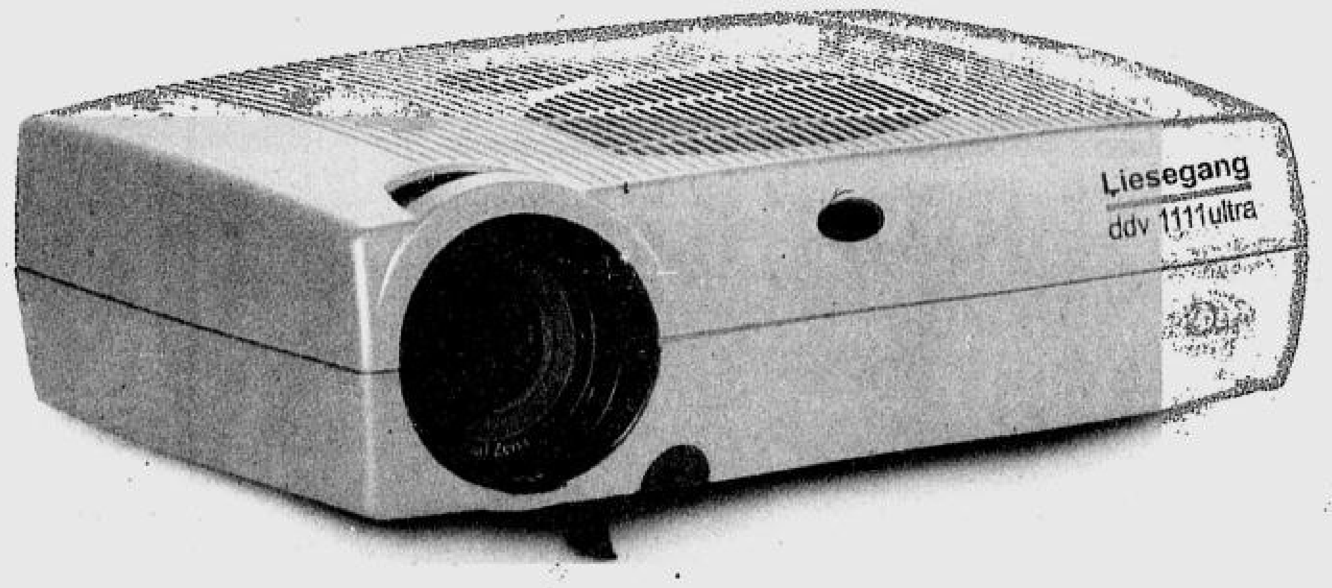

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Putting pun and fun into financial news

CNBC chief stocks editor Bernard Lo chats with Ayala Corp.'s Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, one of the few Filipino CEOs featured in the financial news channel.

(From page C1)

At 11 a.m., he hosts the Power Lunch, which shares with the viewers an up close and personal look at the companies, people and trends that impact business across the globe.

Despite the seeming stress of his job, Hizon says he sees his work as just like studying. "Going to work is like going to school, you learn everyday."

He admits, "I make bloopers everyday but I know how to veil my mistakes."

When he talks to executives, "I look at it as a conversation."

CNBC's interviews are not scripted so Hizon says he does his own research and draws up his own questions. It has created some sort of niche for itself by conducting the interviews in a very light and informal manner.

"I want my viewers to be comfortable with me," he says.

Staying Filipino

One of his charms, he says, is his Filipino accent that shows when he delivers the news. He has purposely kept it over the years.

He says he feels bad that cab drivers mistake him for all other Asian nationality except Filipino. Hizon says he always insists he is one and proud to be so.

He never felt discriminated against in the international environment and simply says. "If you know what you're doing, they'll respect you."

The CNBC anchor however is not only immersed in business news.

During our four-hour interview that turned into a trivia game later on, Hizon reveals a vast knowledge on entertainment and sports news. He is even up-to-date on the latest show biz buzz in the country.

In fact he and a group of friends have translated their combined knowledge into a book called "Jologs, Sports at Iba Pa" which will be published by October. The book will contain trivia on the local entertainment industry, sports, and Edsa II.

When at home, Hizon watches ESPN, Start Sports and BBC. He plays badminton during weekends.

He has been married for three years to Ma. Carmen Syquia, a second cousin of Jennifer Syquia, ex-wife of actor Gabby Concepcion. Melanie was a former flight attendant whom Hizon met on a blind date and proposed to after 10 months.

She just started a catering business in Singapore.

Hizon flies home to Manila to visit his parents four to five times a year. The youngest of four kids, he says his parents "keep my feet on the ground. They tell me all these are temporary."

One of the reasons he has remained in Singapore despite many offers, is to be near his parents. He decided to stay put despite several offers from other networks including CNN.

Big firms have also offered to double his salary to become their spokesperson.

"In the end, I ask myself, what do I really want. In the end, it's not money but fulfillment."

What he really wants to do is to be a field reporter and he says he has told his boss about this desire. But for now, he is better seen in front of the cameras inside the studio than out.

His contract with CNBC ends in 2004. He says he plans to go back to school and work on getting a master's degree in Journalism or foreign service.

Ultimate goal

His ultimate goal: To be president of the Philippines. It seems to be an open secret at CNBC that this is Hizon's desire. When asked about it, he simply says "to go into public service."

His experience in politics has largely been confined in the campus. He has been a consistent class president during his elementary years at the La Salle Greenhills and ran for student council in high school and college.

He does not share how he wants to go about entering Philippine politics but adds that if nothing materializes of his plans he can always go back to broadcasting, even if only in the national setting.

For now Hizon enjoys the position of being one of only three Filipino broadcast journalists who are in the international scene—the first was Veronica Pedrosa, who is now with CNN and the other is Cathy Yap-Yang who works with Bloomberg in Tokyo.

Bernard Lo

The other popular CNBC face among Filipinos is Bernard K.L. Lo, CNBC's chief stocks editor and host of Lo & Co.

His demeanor during the interview slightly defied his irreverent ways on TV where he can make his interviewees squirm and wish they never agreed to face him.

Getting deep into stock market reporting was farthest from Lo's mind when he was in school.

Lo was born in Vancouver but his family moved to the US in Oregon where his dad was a professor.

Having played the violin rather quite well since he was young, he wanted to study something that would make him work in a music related field. He studied MS finance and Arts Administration.

"I got a degree near music to manage an orchestra," he says.

Ironically it was his degree in finance that eventually provided him his bread and butter and gained him a name and stature he may not have achieved if he chose to play music professionally.

Hosting his own show also gave him the opportunity to have a one-on-one interview with known tenor Luciano Pavarotti, whom he shamelessly called "chubby."

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Stock Prices Delo

LO:"You're as good as your last show."

Accidental journalist

So how did a violin-playing Chinese-Canadian end up becoming a broadcast journalist? Purely by accident.

"I flew to Hong Kong to have an interview with an arts organization. But the job called for a high degree of Chinese," he relates. He obviously did not get the job.

Then came Asia TV which needed a native English speaker so the deterrent to his previous job application became his ticket to his first job.

For a couple of years, he reported on fires, accidents and some minor news events.

His break came when ATV's business editor suddenly resigned after eight years on the job. He was the only one who understood economics.

"Nobody knew how to do business news except me," he says.

He immediately liked the assignment and stayed. He admits that financial news is less competitive.

"Nobody is knocking on your door waiting to get your place," he observes.

Getting the stiffness out

He likes the style of CNBC as it reports financial news without the traditional stiffness and seriousness associated with it—a style still rejected by its competitors but is slowly gaining wide acceptance.

Lo says they try to be human when reporting business developments and even making it entertaining.

He admits there have been some resistance because "some like news to be polished. But we're winning them over."

He and Hizon used to do the market reports but they have since been given different assignments.

"I miss working with Rico," he says, describing Hizon as a "good Catholic boy" but adds they probably cracked too many jokes on the show.

Like Hizon, he is at work by 4 in the morning, which means going to bed at 8 in the evening and getting up at 3 a.m. and heading straight into the shower.

But Lo says he loves it all.

He calls 4 a.m. an exciting time because the biggest market in the world is just wrapping up its trading.

His early hours are also "very concentrated". He likes being in the office early in the morning because there are "no PRs calling to have their clients interviewed."

Lo's main program is the three-hour Squawk Box, the signature program of CNBC that tracks investment strategies, interviews prominent business figures and debates and debunks the latest market rumors.

Although it sounds difficult to do a three-hour show, Lo says he and the other hosts do not really feel the long hours.

Be curious

The key, he says, is to "be curious and have the desire and the urge to learn. You don't do it for yourself. You try to transpose yourself to the viewers."

Doing the show, however, does have an effect on his life.

Even when he is with his wife of four years, he is very time sensitive.

His wife is 10 years his junior (although Lo has a very boyish face) and was his student when he taught English in an exclusive Catholic school for girls. She works as a spin doctor for the owner of the HK Entertainment Co.

Other than being time sensitive, he says his job "can really wear you down. It's not a very unforgiving job and you're as good as your last show."

Like Hizon, he has received several offers from other networks. But for now he is "having so much fun."*(E-mail the author at mespino@inquirer.com.ph)*

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Building better alliances

(From page C5)

the early phase of development has about a one in 20 chance of coming to market.

So if you run alliances for a pharmaceutical company with the purpose of developing and marketing new drugs and you succeed 10 percent of the time, you perform twice as well as the industry average.

In such an environment, it's easy to pin the blame for a disappointing alliance on technical failure: The basic compound didn't work or didn't do what someone hoped it would.

In fact, however, terms like "exogenous change" and "technical failure" are often masks that hide other problems: ineffective governance, a failure to honor commitments, inadequate staffing, insufficient attention from company leadership. In other words, maybe the alliance simply wasn't managed very well.

Every established company today should have a dedicated capability for managing alliances.

In many segments, high tech, pharmaceuticals and airlines, to name a few, companies already compete as fiercely for partners as they do for customers. The playing field is not level.

Those few companies that consistently do a better job of managing alliances gain reputations as superior alliance partners. A good reputation pays off in better alliance opportunities, continually expanding partnerships and new levels of value creation. This is your competition.

Generally, having an effective alliance capability involves two things: creating the right alliances and making those alliances work.

Creating the right alliances

- Fit the alliance to your strategy. Define the link between overall strategy and alliance opportunities, identify the purpose of each alliance and be prepared to react quickly to changes in strategy or environment.
- Identify the best partners. Use a range of competitive and market sources to develop the intelligence to spot and evaluate potential partners.
- Optimize your alliance portfolio. Develop systems for timely reporting to enable faster, better-informed decision making about alliances. Know how to identify new alliance opportunities based on activity in your current portfolio. Make sensible trade-offs between internal efforts and alliances.

To manage the alliances and make them work:

- Maximize your day-to-day performance. Use performance measures that reflect the organization's overall business objectives so that the people involved in the alliances will be able to communicate the "why" and "what" of every alliance they form and to share experiences across alliances.
- Manage your relationships with alliance partners. Plan to communicate and maintain continuous personal contact with key people at the partner organization.

Success on this front makes it possible to develop new opportunities from existing relationships.

- Capitalize on your alliance assets. Capture and adopt best practices. Build on the knowledge gained in alliances by sharing information and leveraging alliance-created assets across the parent company.

What follows are three things you can do immediately to begin managing your alliances more effectively.

Create a dedicated alliance management team.

Alliance management is no place for rugged individualism. In too many cases, companies allow one person to become the "go-to" guy or gal. Two things happen with this approach. First, those people become overworked, eventually losing their effectiveness.

Second, the development of alliance management as a capability is stunted because the skills reside too much in individuals, and there is little opportunity to develop those skills in others.

Make sure that team members are experienced enough to manage, not just oversee. Alliance management requires experience and skill, so you need to assign some of your best people to alliance management, not just those looking for something to do.

Be sure the team is large enough to make a difference. Avoid the mistake made by one US company that is in an alliance with a Japanese partner. Although the alliance has the potential to generate nearly $2 billion in annual revenues, the US partner has committed well less than one man-year to alliance management.

The Japanese partner, by contrast, has committed nearly 10 man-years.

Finally, alliance management is a full-time job. A part-time commitment is a recipe for failure. In general, our research reveals a distressing lack of commitment to assigning full-time people to alliance management.

At many companies, more than half of alliance management today is being handled by people who spend less than one-quarter of their workweek in the role.

Management process

Too often, companies blame problems with alliance management on "corporate culture." Sure, culture is important, but it is not immutable. By creating standard alliance management processes and then creating learning opportunities that help people perform in the desired ways, alliances can be managed more effectively.

Once a process is in place, continued emphasis on capturing knowledge and experience from each alliance activity can help subsequent alliance managers do their jobs better.

The alliance framework developed by Accenture to manage alliances identifies a process lifecycle of selection, structuring, mobilization, acceleration, and tracking and reporting. The framework includes a high-level strategy for managing the network of alliances, and it also includes guidance as to policies and guidelines, roles and responsibilities, and a knowledge-sharing and communications infrastructure.

Attend to the performance management imperatives of alliance management. Part of effective alliance management is looking at the way people are motivated to do their work and how they need to be motivated differently.

Here's a classic case involving a large bank working on a significant alliance. A senior executive manages a major part of the bank's infrastructure. In the bank's current accounting scheme, she will realize no revenue or profit from the alliance but will accrue significant equipment and operating costs in her budget in support of the alliance.

The optimal outcome for this executive is barely

BUILDING/ C7

For this group, life starts long before 40

By Abigail L. Ho

LIFE begins at 40, so the cliché goes, but not for this group of young and dynamic entrepreneurs.

The Young Entrepreneurs' Organization is an international association of business people under 40 who are operating their own businesses.

Members could also be just shareholders in certain operating companies, but they have to have actual involvement in the companies' operations.

YEO Philippines president Jose Alberto "JB" Dimayuga, however, said these qualifications were not put in place to be elitist. He stressed the importance of stringent screening measures because of the confidential nature of some YEO activities.

"To be viewed as exclusive and elitist is dangerous. I think we created this perception unintentionally. I'd like to inform the public that we're a peer support group formed to build our businesses and improve ourselves. I would emphasize on the forum's support structure and our rule of confidentiality," he said.

YEO Philippines, like its international YEO counterparts, have different activities to enhance its members' personal and business lives.

Its vision is to be the strongest peer support group for members' businesses by supporting, educating and encouraging its members to succeed in all aspects of their lives.

YEO Philippines started in 1996 because of different issues that young entrepreneurs encountered in business that were difficult to relay and discuss in a professional organization.

Unlike other business groups that are socio-civic in nature, Dimayuga said YEO is more an education and support group than a socio-civic one.

"We're not a socio-civic group. We're purely educational and voluntary. In fact, members can't use YEO as a venue for their socio-civic projects like fundraisers. We can't even sell our products to each other," he explained.

Proof of this are YEO's different activities ranging from discussion groups or forums, learning events, local and international networking programs and conferences, mentoring program, to the international Inventory of Skills database where members worldwide can help each other about anything and everything under the sun.

"The forum is the most highly rated because it's the most powerful. Seven to 12 people meet monthly to talk about business issues. It's a venue where members speak in terms of their own experiences and the others learn from them," Dimayuga said.

He, however, stressed that confidentiality is very important, so much so that members can be kicked out of the organization if word of what was discussed during forums get out.

He said members can use things learned from the forums in their personal and business decisions, but these could not be discussed with anyone else.

Dimayuga himself attested to the power and usefulness of the forums. He said he had picked up many things from the discussions that he was able to apply to his own business, an electronics manufacturing service provider called Aurotech.

In fact, the fora were so successful that even YEO spouses had set up their own groups. These groups also had regular meetings that follow the same structure as the original forums.

YEO also sponsors "learning events" almost every month. These are organized by either a "day chair"

FOR/ C8

Young
Entrepreneurs'
Organization

MOVEMENTS

Mitsubishi chair new RP adviser

MITSUBISHI Corp.'s Minoru Makihara recently agreed to be part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's International Board of Advisers.

Makihara joins the ranks of global economic experts and dignitaries in the board such as former US Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Bosworth, AIG chair Maurice Greenberg, Unilever chair Antony Burgmanns, and former Australian prime minister Paul Keating.

Makihara also serves as vice chair of the Keidanren, the powerful Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, which assists Japanese companies, assess business conditions and formulate directions.

Japan is the Philippines' second largest investor after the United States.

7-Eleven appoints new officers

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. chair Vicente T. Paterno announces the appointment of Yen-Sen Yang as president of the country's leading chain of 24-hour convenience stores.

Yang is also the concurrent chairman of Convenience Distribution Inc., the Philippine Seven's wholly owned subsidiary handling the chain's warehousing and distribution needs.

Yang joins Philippine Seven from a successful stint as president of President Pharmaceutical Corp., a member of the group.

The other appointments include Wenchi Wu as treasurer, Sam Liu as corporate planning manager and Dennis Wu as treasurer of Convenience Distribution Inc.

President acquired 50.4 percent of Philippine Seven through a tender offer last year. President is Taiwan's largest retailer and is that country's licensee of 7-Eleven convenience stores.

Philippine Seven has been the 7-Eleven licensee in the Philippines since 1982. It is the leader in the convenience store market operating 150 stores with a registered sales revenue of P3.4 billion in 1999.

Hitachi's new country manager

AS HITACHI's new country manager, Jose Allan Tan is responsible for developing and managing Hitachi Data Systems' business in the Philippines. This includes development of the local channel partners, and establishing market awareness for Hitachi Data Systems' technology and solutions.

Tan is also the director of marketing for Asia. In this role, he takes the lead in building the Hitachi Data Systems brand through an integrating marketing approach that covers 10 countries in Asia.

His area of responsibilities include advertising, internal and external communications, event management, and channel and alliance marketing.

He has more than 18 years of experience in the IT industry including sales and marketing roles in various organizations. Most recently, he was an account director at Euan Barty Associates, a Hong Kong-based regional communications specialist agency. He was also a senior industry analyst at Dataquest with responsibility for developing the IT services research across Asia Pacific.

Tan has a bachelor of science degree in electronics and communications engineering from Don Bosco Technical College. He is also an active member of the Rainbow Project—a child developmental charity catering for autistic children in Hong Kong, and is a member of the Hong Kong Computer Society and the Hong Kong IT Federation.

Building better alliances

(From page C6)

to break even. If customer complaints don't go up and if things stay pretty stable, she may be okay. But if the slightest thing goes wrong, her accounting measures will look bad.

Meanwhile, her colleagues in other departments will get all the credit for any upside that results from the alliance, either additional revenues or share-price gains. She is skeptical of a rapid rollout of the alliance capabilities. Why should anyone be surprised?

Poor alliance management turns out to be related to the more general failure to determine the potential value of alliances. After all, people guard their wallets more carefully when they're full of money. If you're not sure how much money is there, you're less focused on monitoring it.

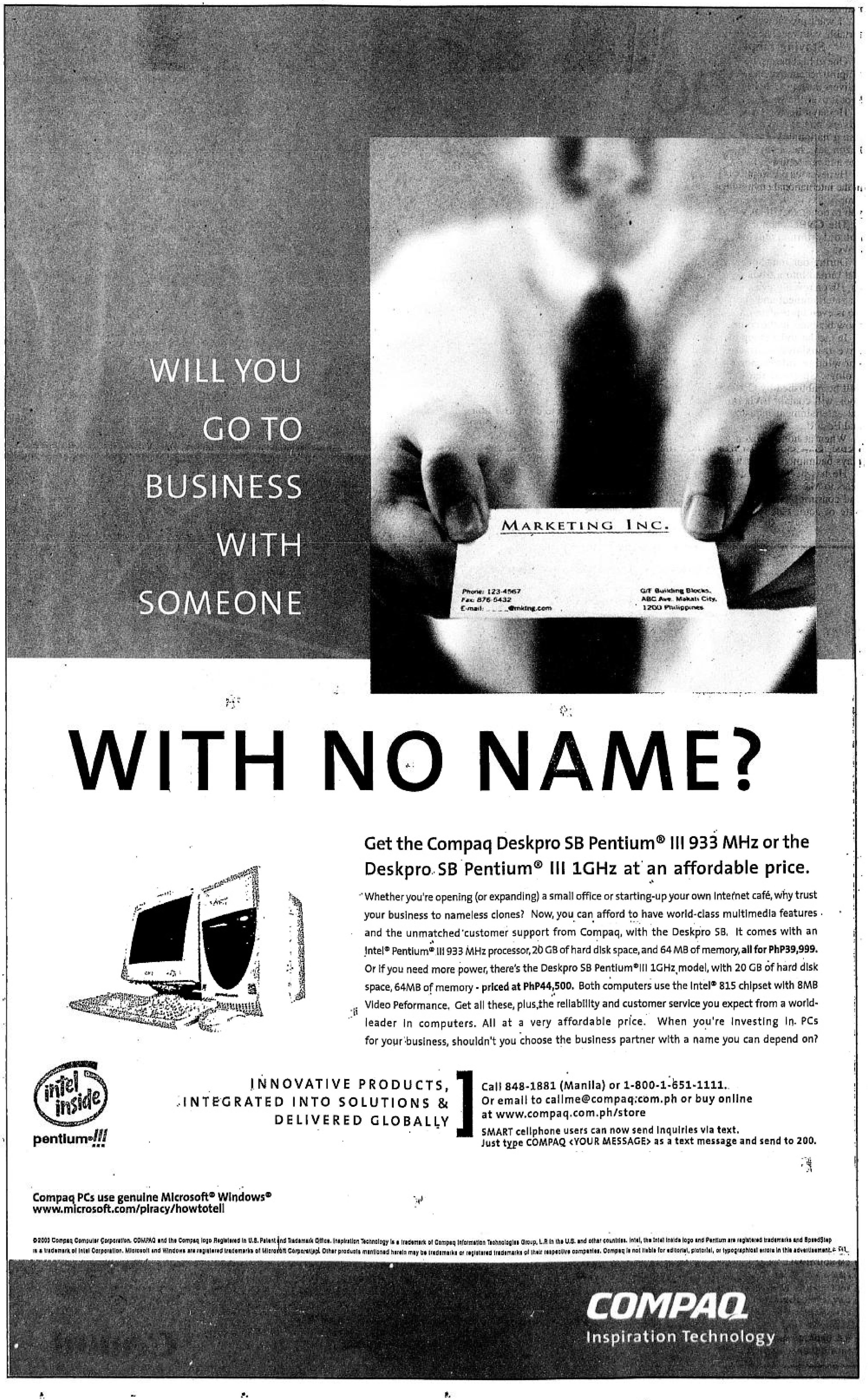
It's hard to perform an ROI analysis for alliance management when you don't know either the return or the investment for the alliance itself.

Combine that problem with another: The symptoms of alliance trouble are often hard to detect (though there never seems to be a shortage of candidates for blame when alliances end up in intensive care).

The failure to identify the root causes, the failure to create a robust alliance management capability, often can mean the difference between an alliance's success and failure.

For companies managing scores of alliances, the biggest problem with alliance management may be that an alliance failure does not cause enough pain in the short term. It's only in the long term, when the problem is revealed as more systemic, and not just a problem with exogenous change, that the realization of lost business opportunities really hits home.

Dominic M. Palmer and Patrick Mullaney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Skyscrapers lose their luster after US attacks

NEW YORK —The glimmering magic of the New York skyline was forever altered by last week's attacks—and it is more than the destruction of the 110-story twin towers anchored to the bedrock of lower Manhattan.

The attacks changed the perception of skyscrapers as testimony to man's ability and vision to that of an instrument of death. More than 5,000 people are believed dead after hijackers rammed two jetliners into the World Trade Center.

As time marches on and reality settles in, some people who work in skyscrapers are beginning to feel extremely unsafe coming to work, a normal response to the disaster, said Russell Friedman, cofounder of the Grief Recovery Institute.

"Clearly, working in tall buildings is a concern. The brain is set up to look for potential dangers to its existence," he said.

After Sept. 11, the brain has moved into hypervigilant mode and perceives everything as a threat, said Friedman, who has received requests from major corporations to deal with employee fears in the wake of the disaster.

And New York is known the world over for its tall buildings, he said, making it the most obvious connecting threat.

To some, it is more than just working in a tall building that unnerves them— it is working in a highly visible or landmark building, such as the Chrysler Tower or Empire State Building in New York, or the Sears Tower in Chicago, the tallest US building which was evacuated after the World Trade Center was hit .

Accommodating worker concerns

A worker in the Empire State Building—once again the city's tallest—said people have lined up in orderly fashion to go through security checks despite the fear and fright, which followed last week's horror.

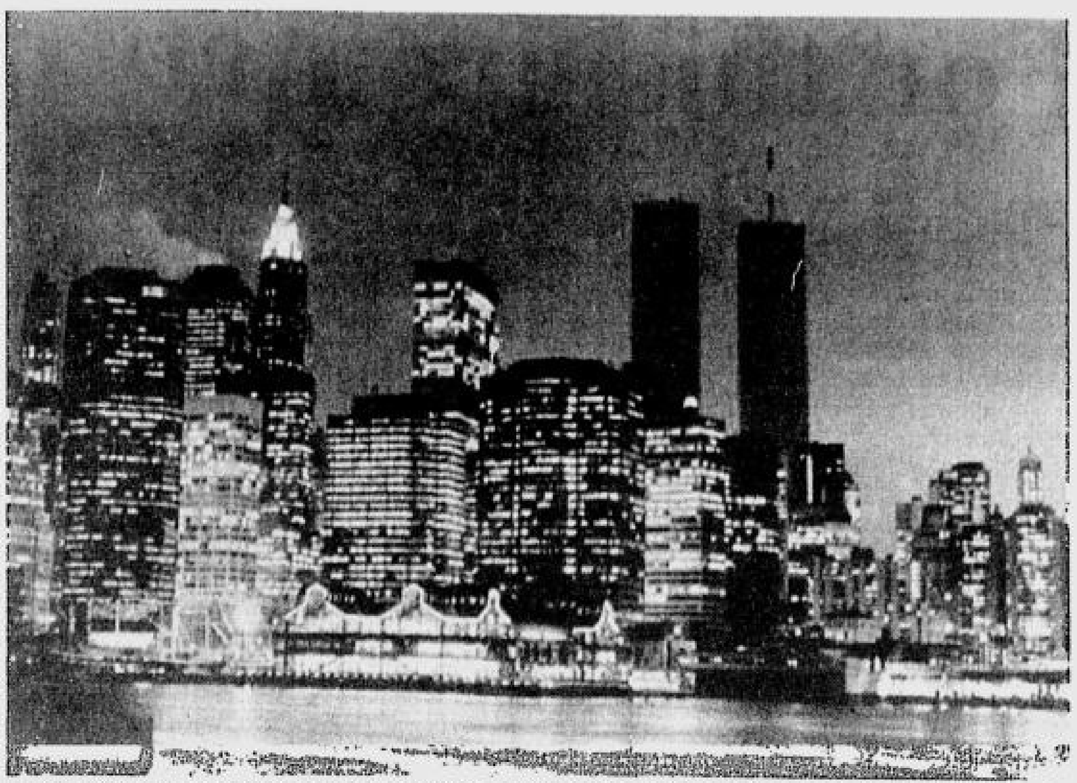
"I think they need to be normal," he said, in the midst of the terror that still pervades.

An Israeli worker said: "I lived in the Middle East during the Gulf War and last week, I was scared for the first time. This is bigger, scarier stuff."

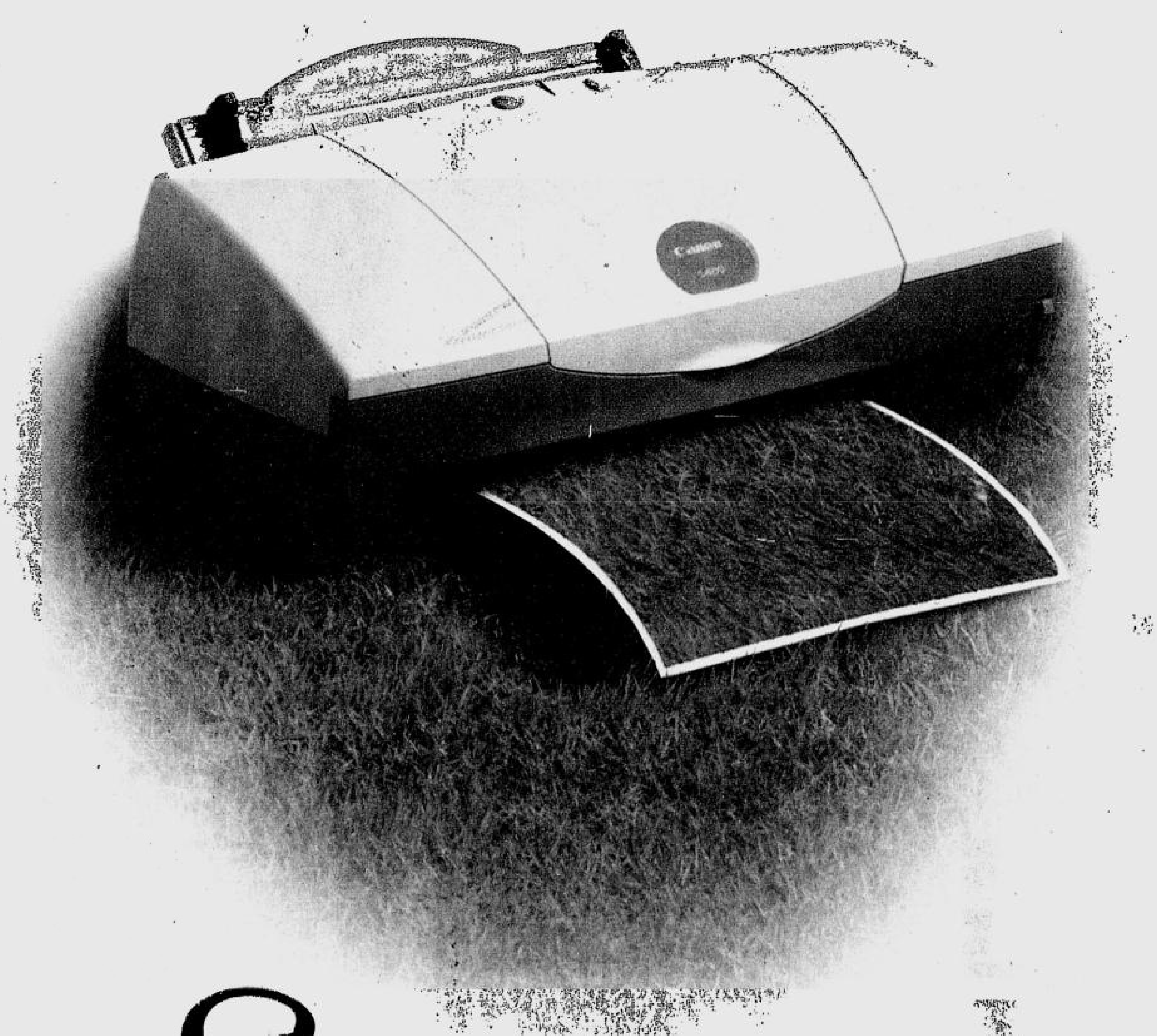
Companies have said they will try to accommodate worker concerns. All employees who worked for Kemper Insurance in its offices on the 35th and 36th floors of the Worth Trade Center's North Tower are accounted for, the company said.

The company, which plans to stay in

SKYSCRAPERS/ C9



AFTER the fall, some people who work in skyscrapers are beginning to feel extremely unsafe coming to work.



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For this . . .

(From page C7)

or one of the discussion groups.

Learning events could come in almost any form: a roundtable discussion, a presentation, a game show or anything else the members could cook up.

"We're always encouraged to make our events unique. It could be something like an informal roundtable dinner with Washington Sycip or a Family Feud-type game. (These events) not only give us venues for healthy exchange of information, they are also venues for local networking," Dimayuga said.

Local networking is yet another one of YEO's services. Dimayuga said the group has an e-groups account where they update each other on goings-on as well as help each other by sharing experiences and know-how.

YEO International has an international networking service as well. This could come in the form of international conferences where YEO members all over the world converge and share business insights with each other.

During these conferences, delegates visit different companies, the top executives of which discuss strategic issues with the YEO members.

"It's not just an ordinary plant visit. We get to discuss strategic issues like succession and other intimate questions about the company," Dimayuga related.

Owners of these companies are usually members of the Young Presidents Organization, the organization after which YEO was patterned.

YEO Philippines also has a mentoring program where "graduating" members of the YPO take undertheir wings YEO members who are mostly just starting out.

There is also what Dimayuga called "birthing of giants," a three-year program where YEO members spend a week in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for each of those three years to learn about various "highly implementable programs geared for our companies."

He also stated another useful YEO service, which is the Inventory of Skills database.

"It's a controlled database that has the skills of members worldwide. It points you to a member who knows what to do about your queries. These are not confined to business issues," Dimayuga said.

He related that he encountered a problem in his company and he posted his query for the members worldwide to answer. In one or two days, he already had his response and, combined with his personal business instinct, the problem he had in his company was solved.

He also told the story of a friend who wanted to buy tickets to a concert in Italy, but did not know where to get them from because tickets had already sold out.

This just shows the wide range of issues that the Inventory of Skills covers, Dimayuga said.

YEO Philippines now has over 60 members and a Cebu chapter will be starting soon.

Dimayuga reiterated that YEO Philippines would like to invite more members as they really wanted to erase people's elitist perception of the group.

"We're struggling, too. We're not up there like others believe, we're very much grounded, trying to survive this downturn," he said.

So whoever said life begins at 40 must not have heard of YEO.

Informatica . . .

(From page C2)

and customer preferences." Gulle also expressed his confidence with Info Alchemy as its master distributor. "Info Alchemy has a well experienced team with a very promising product."

Key Informatica partners Sun Microsystems Philippines, Sybase Philippines, SGV & Co./Arthur Andersen, Iberpacific, Intranet Business Systems and SQL Wizard were also present during the seminar to explain the benefits and pitfalls of data warehousing and data management and how Informatica fits within their respective range of products and services.

Informatica products include: Informatica Power Center for enterprise data integration platform; Informatica PowerMart for departmental data mart and analytic application platform; Informatica PowerConnect software for extracting ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning), CRM (Customer Relation Management), legacy, EAI, mainframe/AS400 and metadata; Informatica PowerChannel software for data integration across the WAN or the Internet; and Informatica PowerPlug and Informatica Powerbridge software for exchanging data and metadata with 3rd party modeling tools. On the other hand, Informatica application products are: Informatica eCRM/eSite for marketing campaign, customer lifecycle monitoring and sales performance analysis; Informatica eBusiness Operations for general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable and human resource analysis; Informatica eProcurement for requisition, purchase order and goods receipt, inventory and materials, supplier management and bill of materials analysis; and Informatica eMarketplace for marketplace order, auction and liquidity analysis.

Informatica is being used by over 1,300 companies and eight of the top 10 largest banking and financial service companies worldwide. The company was established in 1993 in Palo Alto, California, USA. Info Alchemy is the master distributor of Informatica in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Poor IT projects cost RP firms millions

POORLY implemented IT initiatives could be costing Philippine corporations millions of pesos, and the national economy billions of pesos.

This was the finding of S&G International Consulting which has conducted an exhaustive survey of the country's top 500 corporations to better understand the implementation experience of local corporations.

Anna Testa, S&G's principal for the Philippines, explains "Every single respondent had implemented at least one IT initiative over the previous year, while one company had implemented as many as five. Regardless of whether the implementation is carried out by an internal IT group or an external party, the investment that companies are still making in IT infrastructure is very large.''

Many of the IT projects (25 percent) involved internal support systems, human resource systems, accounting systems, and billing and collection systems. Some 21 percent of the projects were made up of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

ERP systems support organizations' supply chain management and account for the bulk of a company's IT investments.

Other common IT projects involved data warehousing and customer-relationship-management (CRM) tools and various types of "e-Business" tools and initiatives.

Cost (25 percent), track record (23 percent), time (21 percent) and promised benefits (20 percent) were the four primary criteria companies used in their vendor selection process. Only 5 percent cited methodology as a primary criterion for vendor selection.

Anna says S&G were surprised at the results.

"Given that most of the IT Initiatives companies were implementing can be considered to be "mission critical,' we are surprised there was such a low consideration given to implementation methodology. I think this is indicative of many companies still thinking of IT systems as an "IT issue" as opposed to a "business issue." The considerations to be made before purchasing an IT system are much broader than simply understanding what the software might do for you," she says.

POOR/ C10

Take a closer look at the price tag

WITH less shopping money to go around these days, consumers are spending more time taking a closer look at the price tag.

But does it necessarily follow that lower is always better when in the discussion of price? Not quite. Here are some reasons why countless high-priced brands worldwide have managed to win the hearts and minds of customers over lower-priced competitors.

Quality comes at a price. Most successful shirt, pants and shoe brands are produced using high-quality raw materials under the guidance of season experts using modern machines. This inevitably drives up the cost and consequently the selling price. Discerning customers would know first hand that comfort, durability and dependability easily justify a higher list price.

Paying for the present and the future. Office computers are expected to reliably serve their owners for many years to come. This is why many companies assess computer vendors in two areas—price and after-sales-service. Ideally, the premium paid on the computer goes back to the buyer through prompt replacements of parts on warranty, speedy service and comprehensive technical support.

Luxury is meant to be expensive. We all know that quality comes at a price. Luxury, however, is a separate topic. Manufacturers of the world's most expensive luxury items such as watches, bags, jewelry and cars attract their select clientele with the highest grade, and sometimes even rare raw materials plus extra value-original one-of-a-kind design, intricate patters, unparalleled accuracy and unequalled performance. By exceeding the common expectations of common consumers, luxury items create a more expensive class of their own.

With customer attitudes and considerations such as these, marketing professionals are constantly for the best price for products. Asia Brewery chief marketing officer Dr. Antonio Concepcion, who is also a professor at the De La Salle Graduate School of Business, will help practitioners in setting the profitable pricing threshold during the "Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior" to be held on Oct. 4 and 5 at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center.

Jointly organized by the Association of Marketing Educators and Mansmith and Fielders, the conference brings together some of the brightest minds in consumer research, marketing and advertising to share their expertise on increasing sales and market shares.

Other modules of the Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior are "Modeling Consumer Behavior" conducted by AIM professor Dr. Eduardo Roberto; "Predicting Consumer Purchase Behavior" by Ambrocio Reyes, director of operations, AC Nielsen Philippines; "Decision Model for Optimum Product Design" by Mercy Abad, president of Trends-MBL; "Quantifying Consumer Attitude Towards Creativity of an Advertisement" by Darrah Estrada, managing director of Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines; and "Understanding Consumers In-Store Shopping Behavior and Their Role In Sales Promotions" by Raul Esteban, managing director of the Philippine Survey and Research Center.

(For more information on the Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior, contact 893-6459 and 892-3261.)

Skyscrapers . . .

(From page C8)

New York, is "certainly sensitive that some employees may have issues over working in high-rises," said Linda Kingman, a Kemper spokesperson.

"I have not heard anyone say 'I am nervous being in this building.' But if someone doesn't want to be here, I am sure it can be worked out," said a spokesperson for publisher Conde Nash, whose namesake 48-story building looms over the world-famous Times Square.

Survivors of the disaster who lost friends and co-workers in the World Trade Center are more hesitant to commit themselves to working in a high level.

One 20-year Salomon Smith Barney employee who escaped physical harm from last Tuesday's disaster said she might go back to work in a landmark skyscraper just as a matter of not allowing the evil to rule her life.

"I feel they have the bodies. I don't want to give them the minds too," she said.

Swear you won't

Carr Futures, which is currently operating out of the Midtown building of its parent company, Credit Agricole, occupied the 92th floor of the North Tower. Carr lost 69 of its 141 employees during the disaster.

"I'd be very hesitant to be working in a target building again," said David Mangold, a senior vice president with Carr, who was in Mexico when the plane hit.

But Sandy McMillan, his wife, was more definite.

"I was watching on television that they were talking about rebuilding the World Trade Center," she said.

"And I made David promise that if they do, he will never, ever work there."

Reuters

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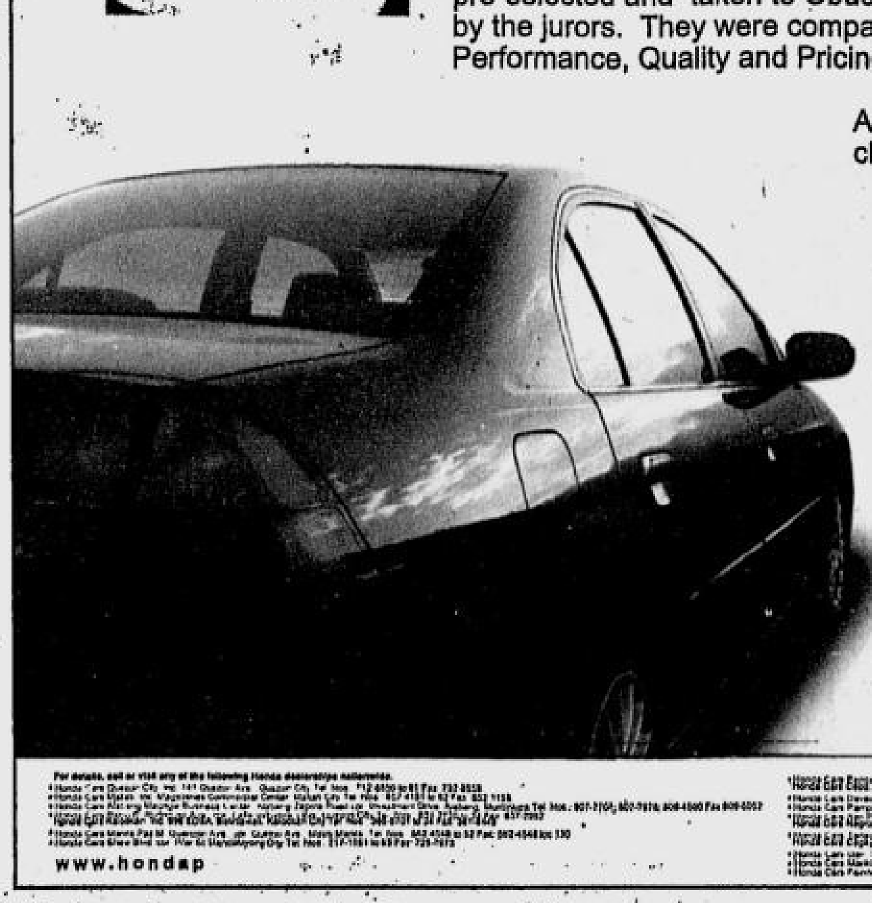

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	Maker	Car	Points
1	Honda	Civic / Civic Ferio / Stream	475
2	Toyota	Celsior	325
3	Subaru	Impreza	166
4	Toyota	Corolla	146
5	Nissan	X-Trail	77
6	Mazda	Tribute	46
7	Honda	Odyssey	42
8	Daihatsu	YRV	36
9	Toyota	Opa	26
10	Nissan	Bluebird Sylphy	11

The best of the best. The Japan Car of the Year is awarded to the most outstanding car of all new models launched in Japan in the same year. Fifty-four motoring journalists and automobile experts representing 27 media organizations were assembled to form the 21st Japan Car of the Year Committee. From a total of 21 new models, only ten cars were pre-selected and taken to Obuchizawa City, Yamanashi prefecture for rigorous inspection and evaluation by the jurors. They were compared against each other in terms of Development of Concept, Design, Performance, Quality and Pricing.

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What drives companies into turning green?

IN MY recently published book—"Environmental Management Systems in Southeast Asia—Towards a Green Millennium (AIM:2001)," I reported out the results of my extensive survey of companies who pioneered in the implementation of environment-friendly practices. Clearly, corporate environmental initiatives in this region are moving away from being simply regulation-driven to being more market-driven. Company endeavors are being carried out on their own to stay competitive and responsive to customer demands.

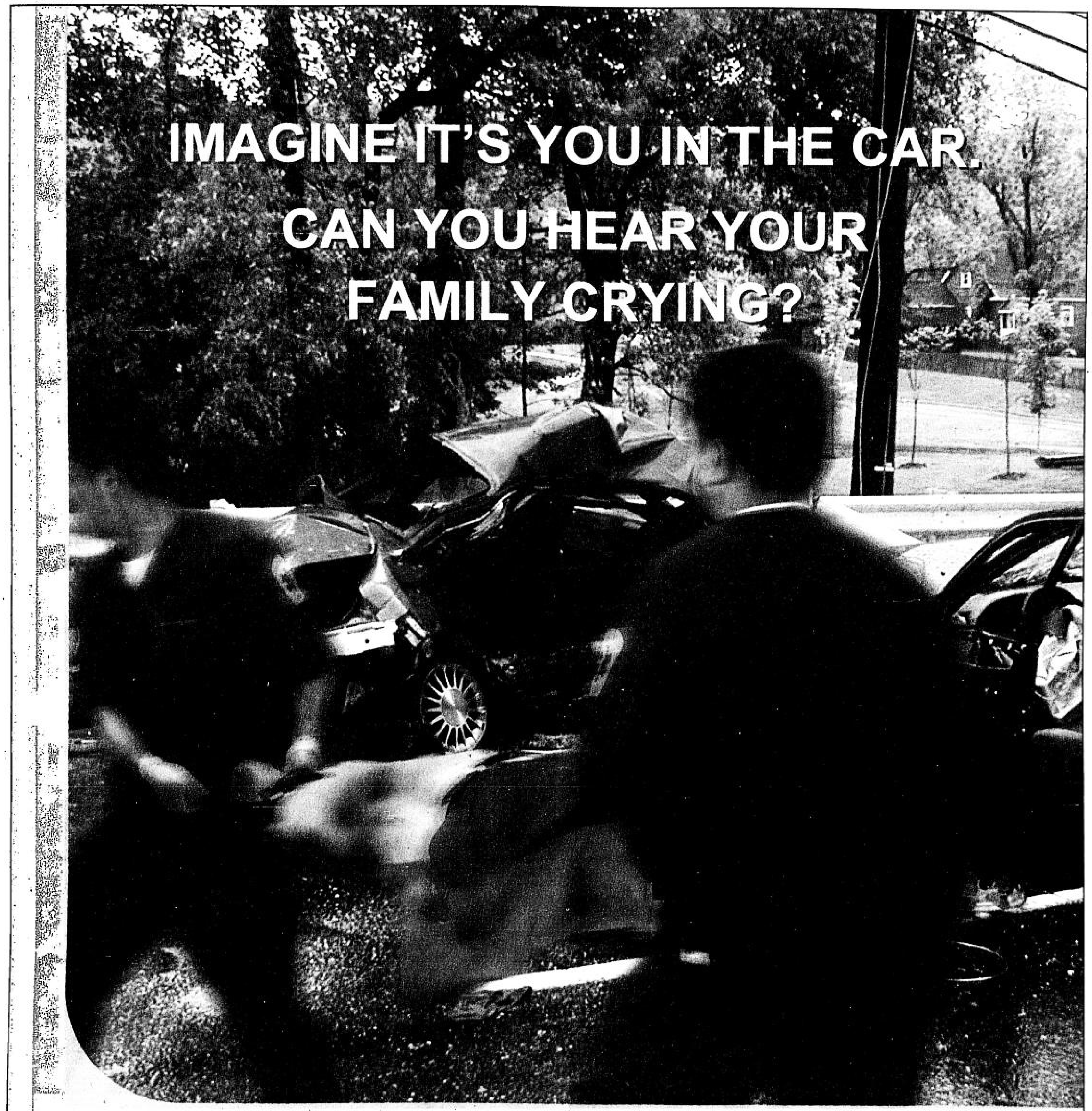
There has been an increasing awareness of environmental issues among Southeast Asian companies. Initially guided by regulatory compulsions, environmental initiatives are now motivated by productivity, cost-savings concerns and a desire to be more marketable and competitive. The desire for a green corporate image is in fact being translated further from being just a marketing advantage, but also a sincere desire to contribute toward environmental sustainability.

This remarkable development has evolved as a result of driving forces, or "greening forces," emanating from company stakeholders who lead on companies to adopt a more proactive approach to environmental management. Regulation has long been the only instrument used to steer business and industry toward sustainability. However, research shows that internal organizational forces are at work: owners, management, employees—further complemented by a dynamic market mechanism, which has emerged quite visibly in this region, encompassing customers, competitors, distributors.

The impact and complexity of these greening forces will be better understood when the stakeholder is identified to be anyone affected by the company's operations, its products and services, its purchasing policies and its interaction with the communities it works in.

The stakeholder concept clearly embraces a vast network of competitors, customers, consumer organizations, distributors, management, owners, employees, labor unions, environmental organizations, banks, insurance companies, voluntary agreements, local population, national and international regulators, owners, press/media, scientific institutions and suppliers. The relationship between a company and its stakeholders is complex, and includes opportunities and threats as perceived by the organization. In fact, in the experience of some firms, even groups of these stakeholders may exert a joint influence to take on environmental initiatives, along with other business activities.

WHAT/ C11



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Poor . . .

(From page C9)

It is ironic, she says, that so many companies failed to effectively measure the benefits, considering the focus companies gave to time, cost, track record and benefits in their selection process.

While 29 percent of companies used actual measurements of cost reductions and savings, another 24 percent of the companies used no formal evaluation of the benefits of the new systems at all. A further 11 percent used customer surveys as a basis for their benefits evaluation.

Jon Allwood, who along with Mark Mackenzie started S&G in the Philippines over two years ago, is a little puzzled over the results.

"How can a company hope to succeed in improving its performance through the use of an IT tool if it is not focused on where the results will come from? It is common sense that if the implementer, be it internal or external, is focused on where the results should come, then the system will naturally be designed to drive that. Too often, this does not seem to be happening," he says.

The most interesting data concerned the costs and implementation. Given that some companies might err on the conservative side when reporting time and cost implications of over-runs, the results are surprising.

A big 77 percent of all implementations went beyond the project schedule. The costs are similarly high with 17 percent running over 100 percent cost over-run, although not as high as S&G would expect. "We expected cost over-runs to be higher" comments Mark, "not only due to the resources required to implement systems, but also to the lost financial savings and lost performance improvement. We would conclude that there's perhaps a lack of understanding about the true cost to the organization of not having a system implemented on time, and to specification."

"The true cost of an IT implementation is seldom accurately measured, and there may be many reasons for this. There is also the key issue of whether a new system is being fully utilized, and again there are many reasons why this may be the case. Sometimes we see that migrated data integrity is poor or training has only focused on the purely technical, as opposed to the behavioral training which may new technologies require. In some cases the system is not aligned with the key result areas and the key performance indicators of the users. All these elements impact on the bottom line of the organization. If you consider the cost incurred through poor implementations and the potential savings not being made, the sums are enormous. Nationally, the impact must run into billions of pesos. We hope that by helping people understand why initiatives have had problems previously, and by highlighting good practice, we can be more effective in the future."

What drives companies into turning green?

(From page C10)

To validate this phenomenon, I chose to look at the actual situation in four Southeast Asian countries whose similarities include ethnicity, industrial growth patterns, environmental problems and newly industrialized country (NIC) status.

However, I have noted that differences in their political and economic thrusts have reflected on their companies' environmental approaches. For example, if the governmental system exerts a lot of thrust on greening the industries, as in Malaysia, the influence of national regulators is bound to be significant. On the other hand, if the country is export-oriented, with a lot of companies supplying to the European market, then international regulators and even voluntary agreements may exert a significant influence.

Likewise, the translateral and multilateral funding organizations have extended their funding endeavors to a great degree in some of these countries. These funds have been channeled through the local banks, who have thereafter sub-channeled the funds to different categories of organizations, requiring in many cases strict conformance to local environmental regulations. Thus, such banks would be perceived to be exerting a significant influence.

What did the intraregional survey covering a random sample of 500 companies show in terms of the extent of influence exerted by said stakeholder or greening forces?

In the Philippines, most companies consider the influence of management (79 percent), owners (73 percent) and employees (56 percent) as "heavy" and "with quite some influence," and next come the external stakeholders like national regulators (76 percent), environmental organizations (70 percent) and local population (58 percent).

Notable is the fact that customers (55 percent) also seem to be exerting significant influence on the organization. Hence, instead of considering regulation as the sole primary influence, perhaps the push is now coming from the internal stakeholders comprising management, owners and employees, while at the same time experiencing a market-driven pull from the customers, competitors, distributors, etc.

While the regulatory forces are still influential in the traditional sense, even the customers are exerting pressure these days. For example, many Philippine-based global and multinational companies prefer to source their supplies from firms who have a distinct environmentally friendly image.

For Indonesia, national regulation (83 percent) seems to be a significant driving force which forms part of the external stakeholders who lead companies to undertake environmental initiatives. Three other external stakeholders: international regulators (63 percent), local population (63 percent) and environmental organizations (57 percent) also exert substantial influence. Among the internal stakeholders, management (70 percent) and employees (50 percent) have a lot of influence, too. *(Excerpted from "Environmental Management Systems in Southeast Asia—Towards a Green Millennium," by Purba H. Rao, AIM: 2001.)*

Discipline means all for Clark chief

(From page C12)

ernment will not be on the losing end. "I've been given the responsibility here. The interest of the country is paramount. I cannot sacrifice this."

He says that the CDC should start earning from its lease agreements with investor firms if it stands any chance of realizing its vision of making Clark a successful center of business, tourism and industry.

Angeles says that he is currently reviewing the contracts signed by previous CDC administrations with public utility firms to ensure that they do not violate the Constitution and that they will benefit the government and the business locators in this special economic zone.

"We are trying to correct the unlawful provisions of those involved in public utilities. They must conform to the Constitution. We try to settle these amicably, as peaceful as possible. But if we have to, we will go to court. That is the proper thing to do," he says.

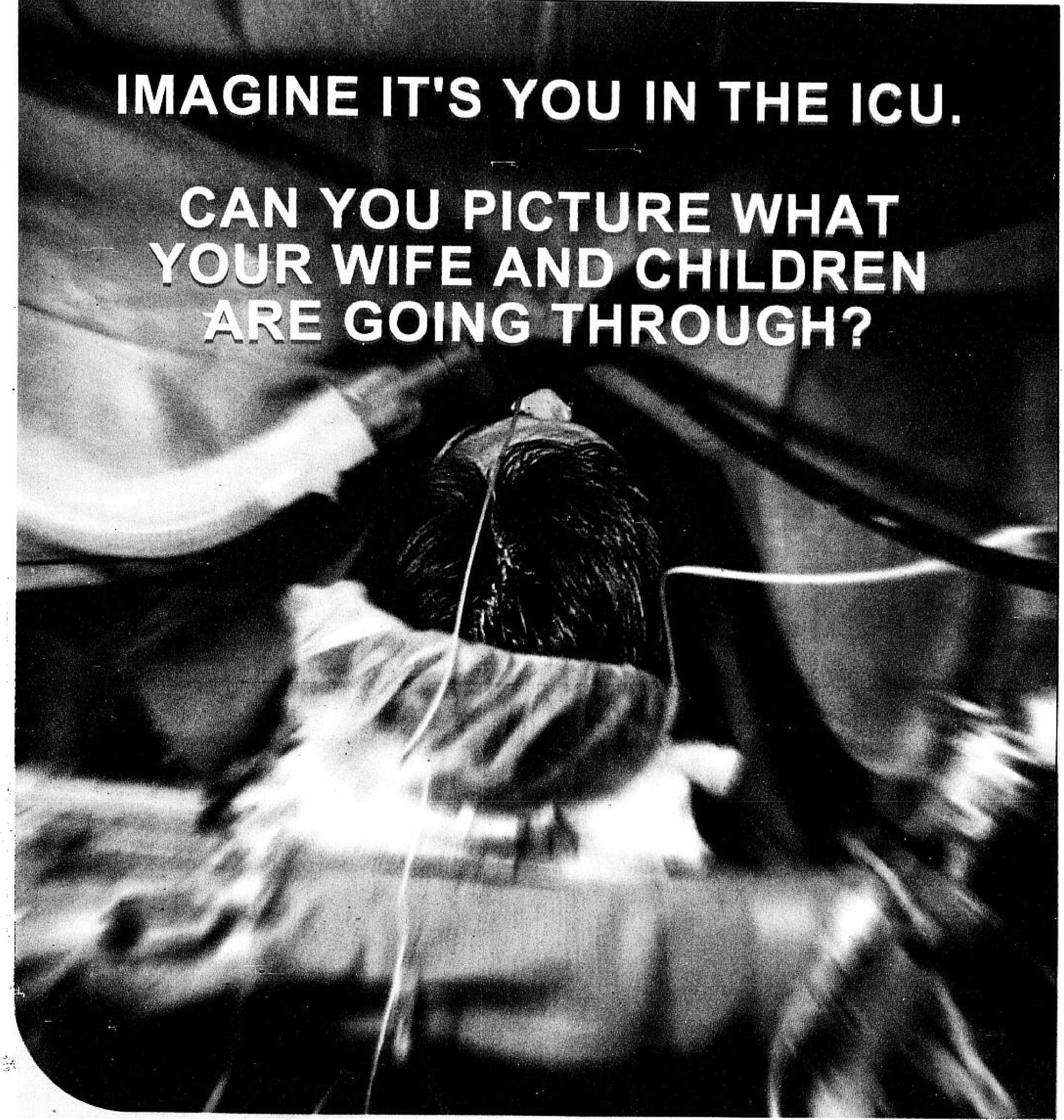
Angeles was the president of the Angeles University Foundation and the AUF Medical Center for many years prior to his appointment by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the CDC. Ms Macapagal herself was the chair of the same university.

Some people initially questioned Angeles' appointment. They said that he was not the right man for the job because he was not a trained corporate person but a mere academician.

However, Angeles dismissed these criticisms as "unfounded." He said that he could do the job. "That is their (critics) opinion because they did not know my background. I'm a corporate lawyer and I trained to handle corporations. It's my specialization when I took up Law. I even took management courses in Harvard. I trained myself not just in running a university and medical center but any kind of corporate job," he says.

Angeles may sound tough and strict, but when it comes to the community outside this special economic zone, he sounds more like a pleader. He is quick to admit that the CDC will never succeed in making Clark a world-class special economic zone if it decides to do it alone.

"I need the help of different sectors of the community, including ordinary citizens, not just business, non-government groups, religious and political leaders. The CDC needs the support of everyone to succeed. Alone, we cannot succeed," he explains.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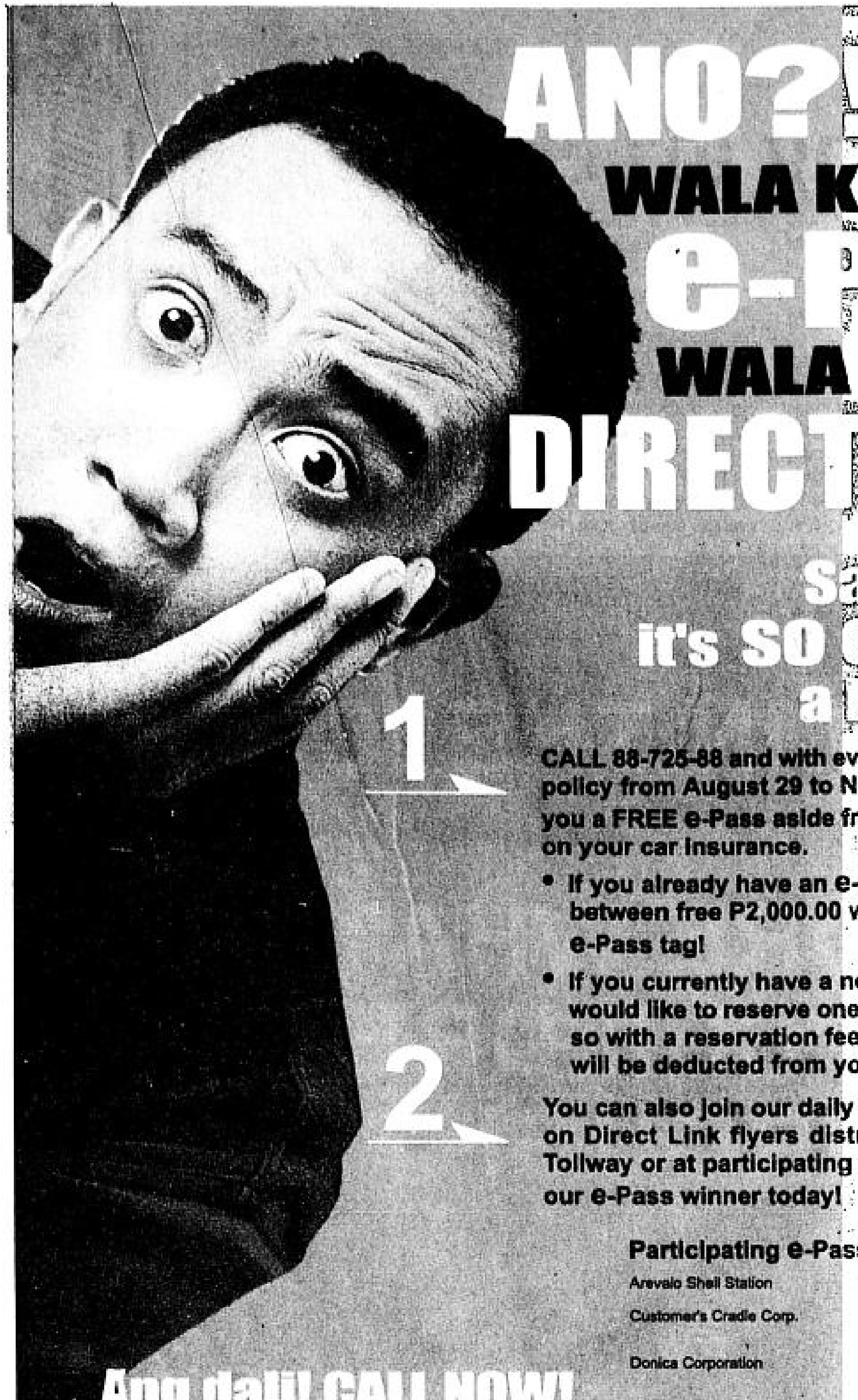

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Discipline means all for Clark chief

By Jun Malig
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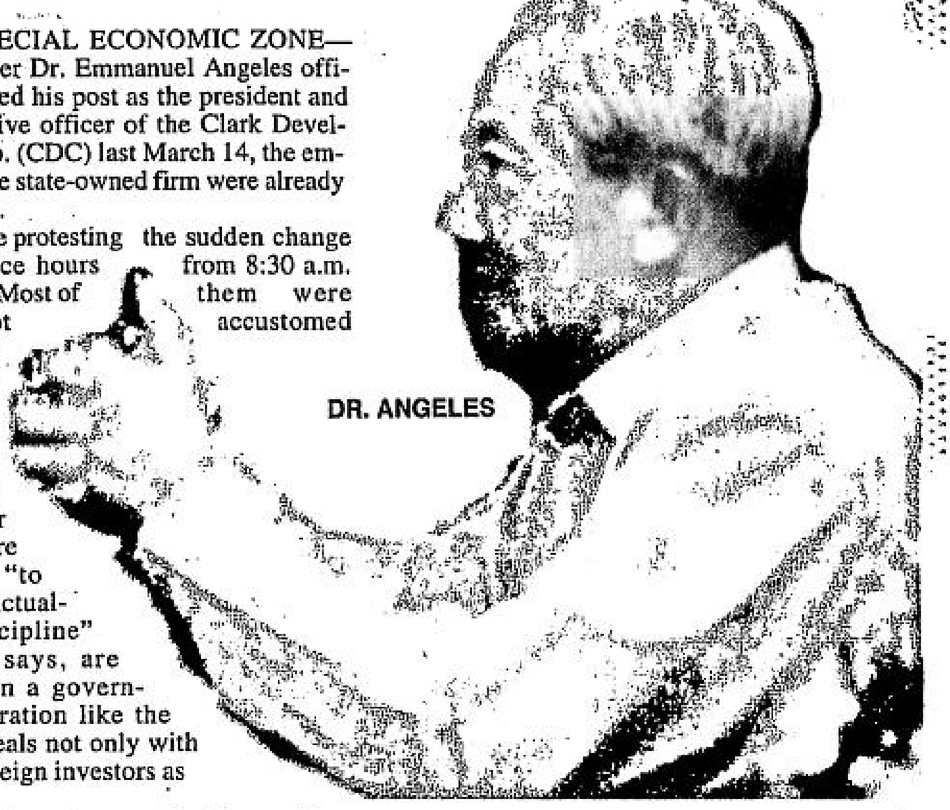


DR. ANGELES

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Ten days after Dr. Emmanuel Angeles officially assumed his post as the president and chief executive officer of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) last March 14, the employees of the state-owned firm were already complaining.

They were protesting the sudden change in their office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Most of them were probably not accustomed to reporting for work at 8:00 a.m.

But for Angeles, this and other changes were necessary "to enforce punctuality and discipline" which, he says, are necessary in a government corporation like the CDC that deals not only with local but foreign investors as well.

Some business locators in this special economic zone also complain about his "strict" ways. They say that he is too rigid in implementing business policies.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Again, Angeles says strictness too is a must "to protect the interest of the CDC" and, eventually, the country.

Angeles admits that he is strict. He explains that it is part of his character. His family and former colleagues at the Angeles University Foundation, where he served as the president for many years, can attest to this.

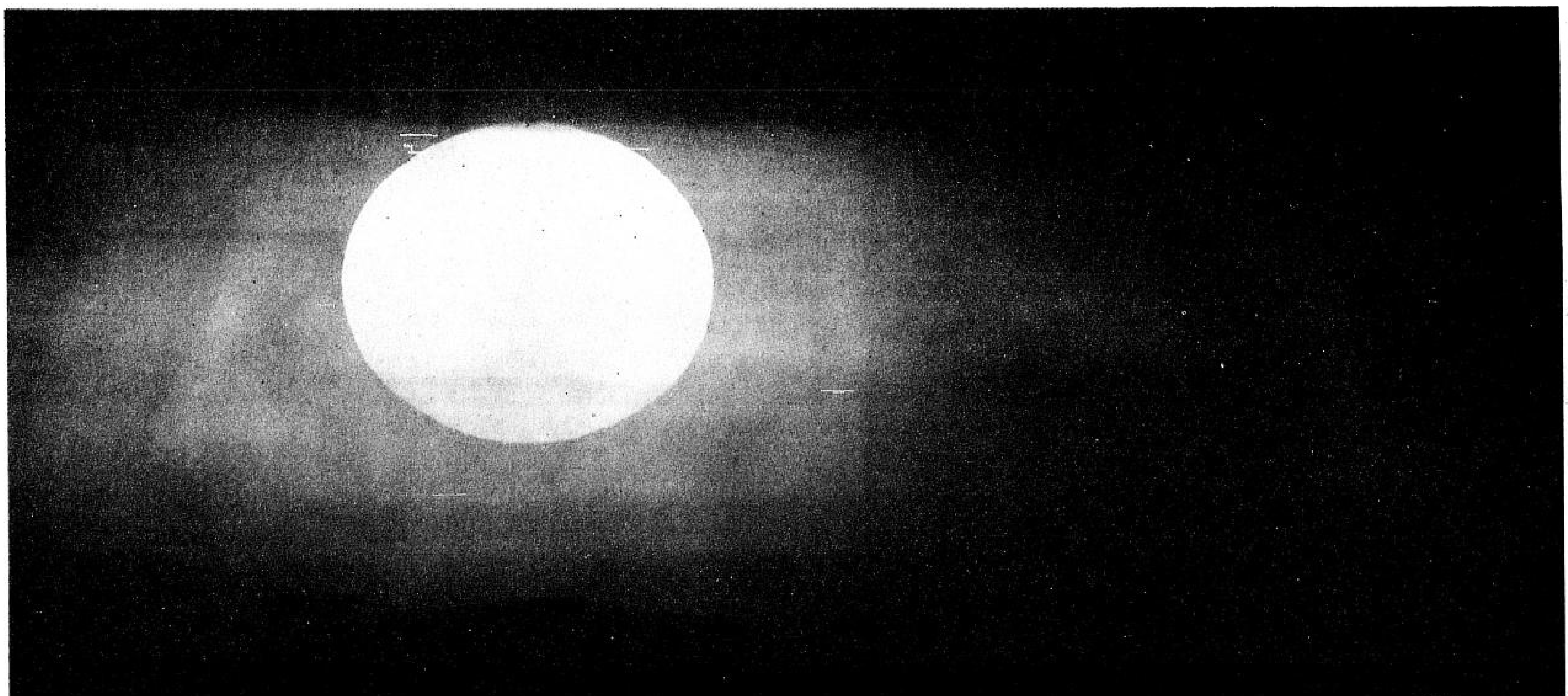
"But if I'm strict, it is always based on legal basis. It's not based on my personal whims. It's professional. Some people have been spoiled here. For eight years they've been so spoiled. I have to enforce punctuality. I enforced discipline. I also have to set the example," he stresses.

When Angeles made his acceptance speech during the CDC's turnover ceremony last March 21, he boldly told the officials and employees of the state-owned firm that he is "a perfectionist and a strict disciplinarian."

He warns that he is short-tempered when people don't do their jobs well and that he expects everyone to be productive.

To the investors, he says that his strict dealings with them are meant to ensure that the gov-

DISCIPLINE/ C11



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LEO MAGNO, Editor

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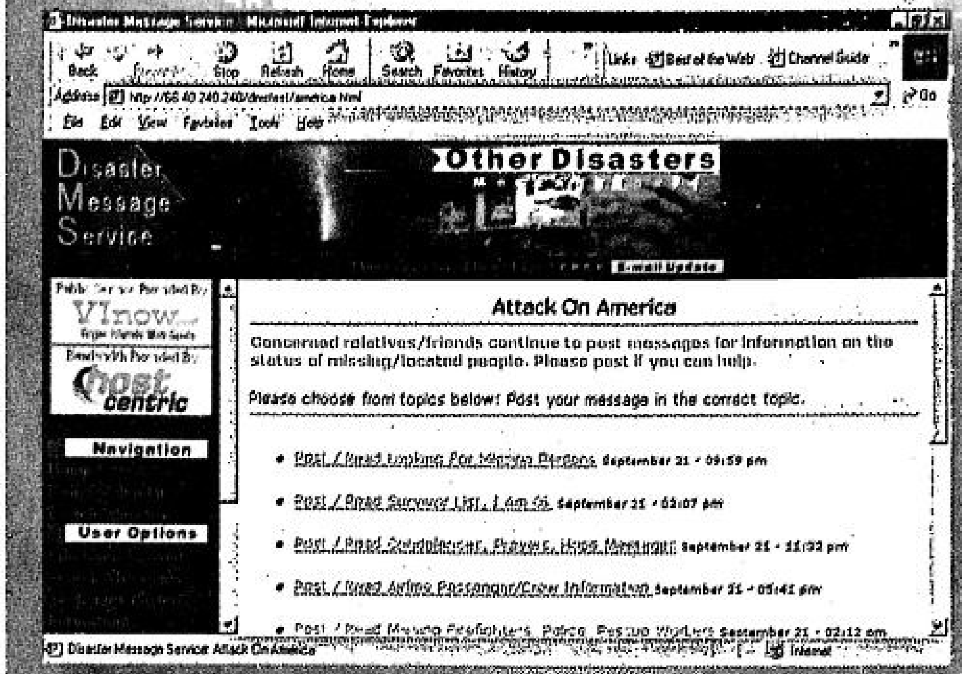
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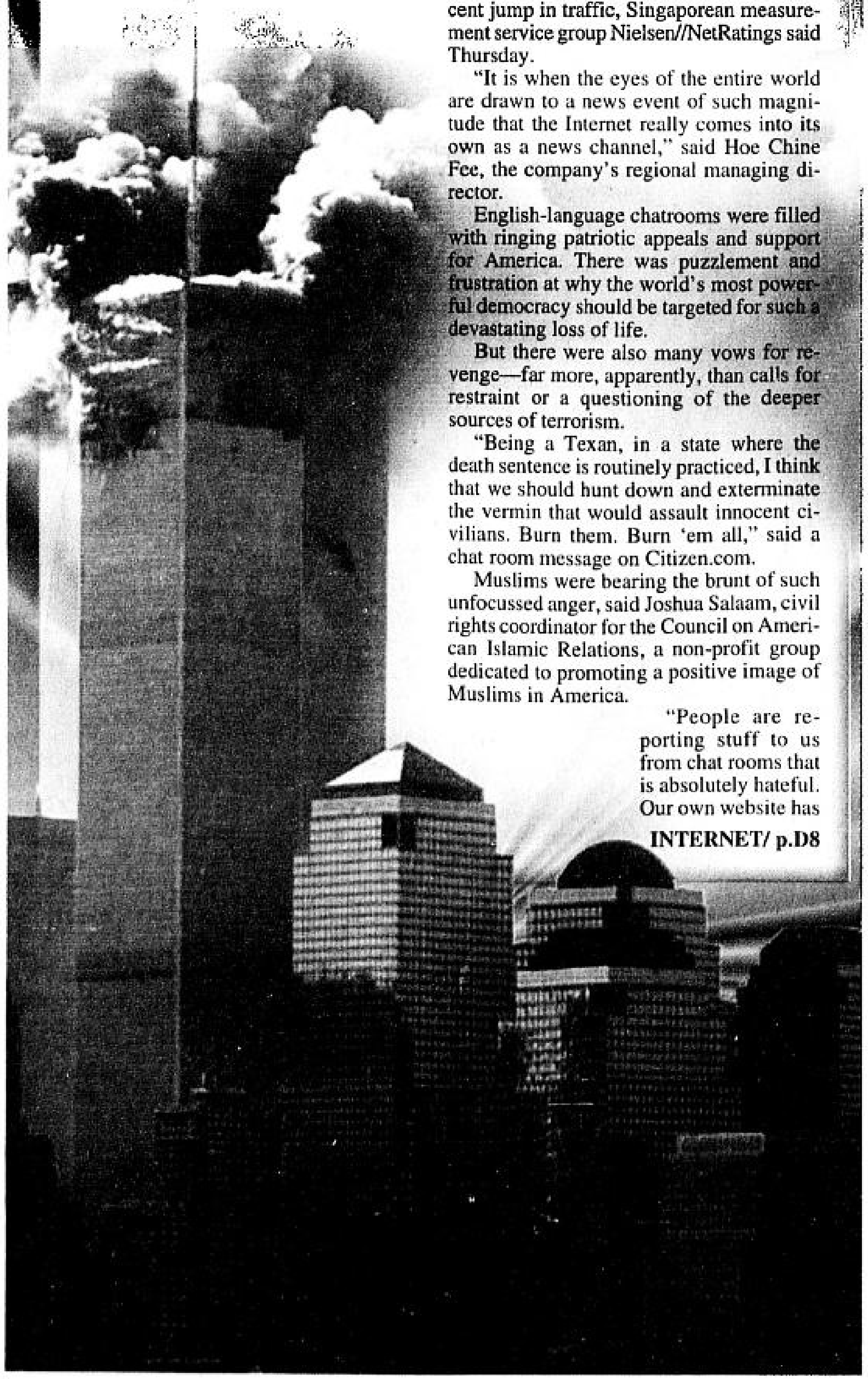
- Post / Read Survivor List, I Am Ok September 21 - 02:07 pm
- Post / Read Condolences, Prayers, Hope Messages September 21 - 11:02 pm
- Post / Read Airline Passenger/Crew Information September 21 - 05:41 pm
- Post / Read Missing Firefighters, Police, Rescue Workers September 21 - 02:12 am

Messages of grief and those asking for help are flooding the Internet.



THE INTERNET is buzzing with news and raw emotions after the terror attacks in the United States, providing a vital communications link within America and with the rest of the world.

E-mail and the Web have filled the gap left by swamped phone lines and suspended aviation links, helping the quest to find missing friends and relatives, letting people vent tears or anger and enabling companies to inform customers or conduct business.

Sites such as the Disaster Message Service (www.disasterboard.com) are flooded with requests from relatives of people buried in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

"We are looking for our daughter Eileen Flecha and her fiancé Ivan Perez. Both work together for fiduciary trust/templeton at two WTC," said one message, whose authors' grief can only be guessed at. "My wife last spoke to her on Tuesday, as the second plane hit her tower. We have not heard from her since and are unable to locate her. If anyone has any information, or has seen her, please, please contact her parents."

News websites were especially in demand. Some, such as BBC News Online, were temporarily swamped in the minutes after the first explosion in New York.

Singaporean visits to the CNN website surged 953 percent between Sept. 11 and 12, while the MSNBC site saw a 273-percent jump in traffic, Singaporean measurement service group Nielsen//NetRatings said Thursday.

"It is when the eyes of the entire world are drawn to a news event of such magnitude that the Internet really comes into its own as a news channel," said Hoe Chine Fee, the company's regional managing director.

English-language chatrooms were filled with ringing patriotic appeals and support for America. There was puzzlement and frustration at why the world's most powerful democracy should be targeted for such a devastating loss of life.

But there were also many vows for revenge—far more, apparently, than calls for restraint or a questioning of the deeper sources of terrorism.

"Being a Texan, in a state where the death sentence is routinely practiced, I think that we should hunt down and exterminate the vermin that would assault innocent civilians. Burn them. Burn 'em all," said a chat room message on Citizen.com.

Muslims were bearing the brunt of such unfocussed anger, said Joshua Salaam, civil rights coordinator for the Council on American Islamic Relations, a non-profit group dedicated to promoting a positive image of Muslims in America.

"People are reporting stuff to us from chat rooms that is absolutely hateful. Our own website has

INTERNET/ p.D8

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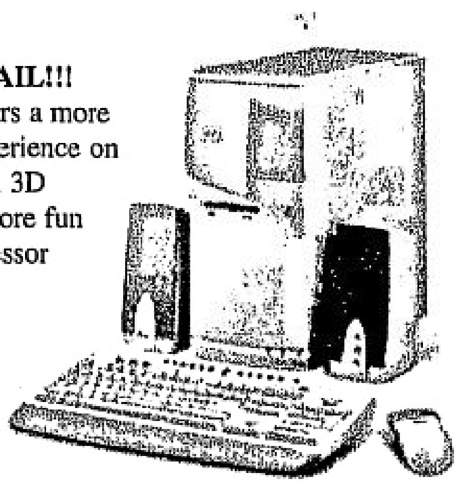

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XBox launch delayed by a week

LOS ANGELES—Microsoft Corp. on Friday pushed back the launch of its XBox video game console by a week and backed away from its initial shipment targets, leaving US retailers and game publishers expecting about half as many units when the XBox makes its delayed debut on Nov. 15.

The decision to delay the much-anticipated launch of the next-generation game platform from Nov. 8 to Nov. 15 was made in the past week. Microsoft still plans to ship between 1 million and 1.5 million units to retailers by the end of the calendar year but would not provide a forecast for the first batch of shipments. *Reuters*

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3G still a few years off in Asia, says mobile firm

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

THIRD generation mobile communications services or 3G will take off in Asia three to five years from now, United Kingdom-based mobile phone maker Sendo recently said.

Sendo, (Japanese word that means "to show the way") also said that only Japan is currently using the new generation mobile communications standard extensively.

Ron Schaeffer, head of product strategy and planning of Sendo, said mobile phone makers are still looking at investing on General Packet Radio Service (GPRS)—a packet-based mobile communications technology that is considered to be the precursor to 3G.

"3G is still a few years off although nobody knows when will it happen. In our case, GSM and GPRS will be a market large enough for us in the next three to five years," the executive said, adding that the company is in the process of developing GPRS phones.

One of the current models being fine-tuned is the Sendo Z100 that runs on "Stinger," a Microsoft Windows operating system for mobile phones.

The software giant has a stake in Sendo after acquiring 10 percent of the company in a $10-million investment infusion in July.

The mobile phone is a multimedia handset that can handle video streams, MP3 music or other formats of music, Java applications and HTML or compact HTML files.

Weighing 99 grams, the phone supports Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) for text-based mobile Internet and is a tri-band phone, able to utilize the GSM 900 and 1800 bandwidths in the Philippines and the 1900 Mhz bandwidth in the United States.

Although Sendo officials declined to say how much computer memory the mobile phone would have, they admitted that it will be enough to handle multimedia applications as the mobile handset also supports multimedia cards.

"More memory means more cost to consumers," remarked Mike Sedgwick, Sendo vice president for Asia Pacific.

This multimedia phone will be powered by dual processors from Arm—a company involved in the development and licensing to companies like Texas Instruments and Intel, according to Schaeffer. He said that the Z100 will use two Arm mobile chips integrated into a Texas Instruments-based chipset.

Established on August 1999 by Hong Kong-based telecom conglomerate CCT with initial capitalization of $10 million, Sendo has presence in various countries, including the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

It currently sub-contracts the manufacture of handheld units to CCT/Haier factory in Tsing Tao in China. CCT is considered the largest producer of cordless telephones in the world.

WHAT IS?

3G—short for third-generation wireless technology, and refers to near-future developments in personal and business wireless communications and mobile technology. This is already being implemented in Japan, while other countries are expected to adopt it between the years 2003 and 2005. The third generation, as its name suggests, follows the first generation (1G) and second generation (2G) in wireless communications. The 1G period began in the late 1970s and lasted through the 1980s. These systems featured the first true mobile phone systems, known at first as "cellular mobile radio telephone." These networks used analog voice signaling and were little more sophisticated than repeater networks used by amateur radio operators. The 2G phase began in the 1990s, and much of this technology is still in use. The 2G cell phone features digital voice encoding. Examples include CDMA, TDMA and GSM. The present state of mobile wireless communications is often called 2.5G.

EMC cutting more than 2,000 jobs

SAN FRANCISCO—Computer storage giant EMC Corp. announced that it would cut 10 percent of its work force, more than 2,000 jobs, and probably report a third-quarter loss, blaming a widening recession and slowing technology spending.

"The business world is simply covered in a blanket of hesitation," Joe Tucci, EMC's president and chief executive, said in a statement by the technology bellwether.

"This will likely be the first of many in the tech sector to warn," said Crowell Weedon analyst James Ragan, who tied the news in part to last week's devastating air attacks which paralyzed much of the US economy.

EMC said it would cut its global workforce to about 21,000 by year-end from 23,400 currently and take a charge of undetermined size in the third quarter. EMC was one of the last major technology companies to feel the technology spending slowdown but it has steadily pulled back expectations, and analysts say a fight for market share also is squeezing once-fat profit margins. *Reuters*

Mobile telephones may cause harm by speeding up brain response time, says study

LONDON—Mobile phones may cause damage to health by speeding up the brain's response times, a British scientist told a conference on Friday.

As consumer concerns mount that prolonged mobile phone use could lead to problems ranging from headaches to tumors, a recent study showing an alarming rate of brain cancer in some cell phone users is helping swing scientific opinion in Britain.

Dr. Alan Preece, head of Biophysics at Bristol Oncology Center, is among a group of scientists becoming increasingly convinced that radiation from cell phones triggers chemical processes in the body that may be harmful.

Six separate studies now indicate that response times speed up when people are exposed to radio frequency signals from mobiles phones.

"Perhaps we now have to accept there is an effect on the brain," Preece told a London conference on the health risks of mobile phones.

"The response time has improved because of stress proteins, which are switched on by a gene. This needs further research. The chronic exposure to radio frequency signals might well have a detrimental (health) effect."

Stress proteins are produced when body temperature rises but Preece and other scientists said they can also occur purely as a result of RF signals, when body temperature is normal.

Other research from Sweden and Switzerland has indicated that radiation from mobile phone calls disturbs sleep.

In a study not yet published in scientific literature, Swedish professors Lennart Hardell and Kjell Hansson Mild found that people who had used analog mobile phones for up to 10 years had a 26-percent higher risk of brain cancer than a control sample.

The study has unsettled many scientists—even though it is based largely on a previous generation of mobile phones, many of which were installed in cars with aerials on the roof, and which emitted signals continuously, unlike the latest, digital phones.

"One can no longer go around saying there is no link (between cell phone use and health effects)," Preece said.

"Without question there is a biological threat," agreed James Lin, Professor of Bioengineering and Electrical Engineering at the US University of Illinois. "The question is how hazardous mobile phone use is."

But Lin said there were as almost as many studies purporting to show a biological impact from mobile phone use as studies that indicated the opposite: "Our understanding is still evolving. We need to have a much larger database."

He noted that it takes nearly a decade for most brain cancers to develop—longer than the period of use covered by most studies.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said last week that more research was needed before damage to health could be ruled out.

However, Elisabeth Cardis, Chief of Radiation and Cancer at the WHO's International Agency for Research in Cancer, told a conference in Finland that any possible risk was small.

Last year, a British government-sponsored scientific inquiry concluded that while there was no evidence of a danger to health, it would be wise to discourage children from using mobile phones because they were more susceptible to radiation. *Reuters*

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'Nimda' virus makes rounds Asia

By Erwin Oliva

WHILE actual incident reports of Nimda infections in the Philippines are scant, anecdotal evidence showed that Philippine-based companies, and even websites, have been infected by this latest viral menace that caused network outages and headaches among individual PC users.

According to an industry source, antivirus firm Network Associates sent a team on Thursday to evaluate and eventually fix the problem in a Japanese firm operating in the Philippines. The source said that the virus infected at least 5,000 personal computers in the company.

A local public relations company which declined to be named said that all its PCs were rendered unusable after one of the employees opened an infected e-mail attachment.

At least 90 companies were also reportedly affected in the Philippines, according to Agence-France Presse.

Jaime Lyndon Yaneza, senior antivirus consultant of the Global AntiVirus Research Group of Trend Micro Inc., said that Nimda (the word "admin" in reverse) has been and still is considered a high-risk virus because it spreads in three ways: through e-mail, shared network files, or through computer servers with vulnerabilities.

First sighted Tuesday, Nimda has spread like wildfire, as it infects both PCs and servers running Microsoft's Windows 95, 98, Millennium Edition and 2000 operating systems, and even Unix servers running Apache web server software.

Yaneza said that Nimda is a hybrid of at least three familiar viruses: Apost, a virus that sends attachments as Readme.exe file; Sircam, a worm that searches webpages in one's temporary cache folder for e-mail addresses; and BlueCode, a virus that takes advantage of the so-called Unicode Traversal vulnerability.

But Nimda also has the capability of spreading and being more effective than Code Red or BlueCode, he said.

Nimda spreads through e-mail messages with the worm disguised as an attachment. When it is in a system, it scans for and then compromises vulnerable servers (those with Internet Information Services vulnerabilities), and eventually hops to shared hard drives on a network, and copies itself to any surfer whose browser requests a webpage from an infected server.

When spreading through e-mail, Nimda usually comes with the attachment file "readme.exe." Once it gets into the computer, the virus immediately drops the file "mepXXXX.tmp.exe" in the C:\Windows\Temp directory, using the "eml" format for e-mail. This temp file contains the file attachment sent by the worm.

The e-mail with the virus also comes with an empty message body and usually an empty subject field. What is scary is that users do not have to double-click on the attachment for the virus to execute—which makes it so lethal.

Nimda usually executes when the recipient of an infected e-mail opens it using Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express. Moreover, the virus has the capability of infecting certain HTML, HTM, or ASP files.

Looking closer, antivirus experts found that the source code of the virus contains the following text: "Concept Virus (CV) V.5, Copyright (C) 2001 R.P.China."

In Hong Kong, Nimda and two damaged trans-pacific telecommunication cables caused widespread disruption to computer networks, reports said Friday.

Companies, government departments and private users were all affected, according to a report in the South China Morning Post English language daily.

"Nimda has cost Hong Kong over $3.75 million in lost productivity," a Trend Micro spokesperson told AFP.

Compounding Hong Kong computer users' misery were two damaged fiber-optic cables connecting the territory to the United States.

Internet communication with the US was still possible, but suffered long delays as messages were re-routed via other submarine cables.

"The cables are most likely to have been damaged by fishing nets or boat anchors," a spokesperson for Reach—the firm operating the links—told the Post, adding it was unknown when the cables would be repaired.

Meanwhile, Nimda also attacked other countries in the region, with China's state media reporting that a number of corporations, including a regional newspaper and a mobile telecommunications company, had been struck.

In South Korea, nationwide warnings were issued and 4,000 key computer operators, including Internet service providers, were put on alert after the Information and Communication Ministry received 3,711 reports of worm attacks.

With a report from AFP

NIMDA FAQ

- W32.Nimda.A@mm is a mass-mailing worm that utilizes multiple methods to spread itself. The worm sends itself out by e-mail and searches for open network shares.

- The worm uses the Unicode Web Traversal exploit. A patch and information regarding this exploit can be found at http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms00-078.asp.

- When the worm arrives by e-mail, the worm uses a MIME exploit allowing the virus to be executed just by reading or previewing the file. Information and a patch for this exploit can be found at http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS01-020.asp.

- Microsoft has released a cumulative roll up for IIS 4.0 on NT 4.0 SP5 and later as well as all security patches released to date for IIS 5.0. This can be found at http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS01-044.asp.

- The worm is also known as W32/Nimda@mm, PE_NIMDA.A, I-Worm.Nimda, W32/Nimda-A, Win32.Nimda.A

Palm reports loss, postpones launch of new wireless PDA

NEW YORK—Palm Inc. on Thursday pulled the plug on its plan to launch this year a highly anticipated wireless handheld computer, derailing any momentum gained after it delivered first quarter results that met lowered expectations.

In addition, the Santa Clara, California-based company, warned that it will not likely turn a profit in its second quarter as previously hoped, and that second quarter revenues would be lower than previous Wall Street projections, amid a slowdown in demand for PDAs.

Palm, currently the No. 1 maker of personal digital assistants, had long promised a new wireless device by the end of 2001, and recently received Federal Communications Commission approval, later withdrawn, for a model called "i705."

Given the economy's sluggish condition, the time was not right, Palm said. What's more, the market is still tiny for the pricey devices boasting wireless mobile access to corporate data and the ability to instantly receive e-mail, and a delay would

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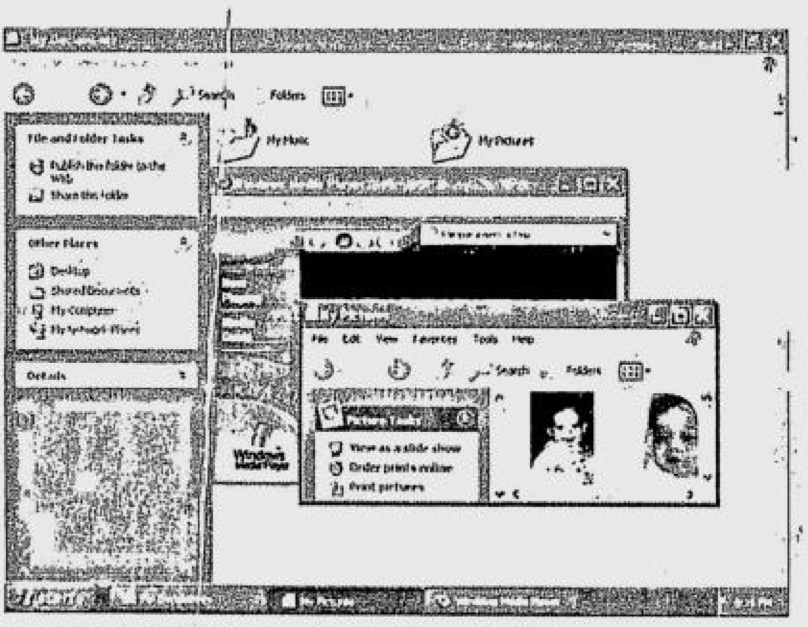


A LOOK at how the Windows XP desktop will look like

More states now saying that Microsoft's Win XP poses antitrust issues

WASHINGTON—The attorneys general of six states on Friday added their support to the government's antitrust case against Microsoft Corp. and expressed concerns about how the company's new Windows XP operating system will affect competition in the software industry.

In a letter sent to Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer, Vermont's William Sorrell and five other attorneys general said they wanted to "add our voices to those calling on Microsoft to remedy the anti-trust problems that are now evident."

"We are concerned that Windows XP may involve additional unlawful attempts by Microsoft to maintain its operating system monopoly," Sorrell wrote in his letter to Ballmer.

The attorneys general from Arkansas, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire and Rhode Island all cosigned the letter. None of them are among the 18 states that have joined the Justice Department case against Microsoft.

"We agree with our colleagues, the litigating states and the federal government, that any anti-competitive aspects of Windows XP should be addressed," the letter said.

Microsoft's allies in the software industry dismissed the letter as a ploy drafted by a lobbyist for the company's archrival, America Online Inc. One pro-Microsoft trade group, the Association for Competitive Technology, called it "tactless" and said it was AOL's "latest and lowest attempt to prolong and even expand this saga."

AOL spokesperson John Buckley said the company was "wholly uninvolved with the letter."

Regardless, the show of support from the additional six states could bolster the government's position as the case heads into a critical, remedy phase before US District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly.

It also could strengthen the government's case if it decides to ask Kollar-Kotelly to order changes to Windows XP. Some state attorneys general have expressed concerns that some of the features in the new operating system, such as a media player and instant messaging, could hurt competition in the software business.

Kollar-Kotelly is expected to hold hearings early next year to determine what remedies should be imposed on Microsoft to prevent future antitrust violations.

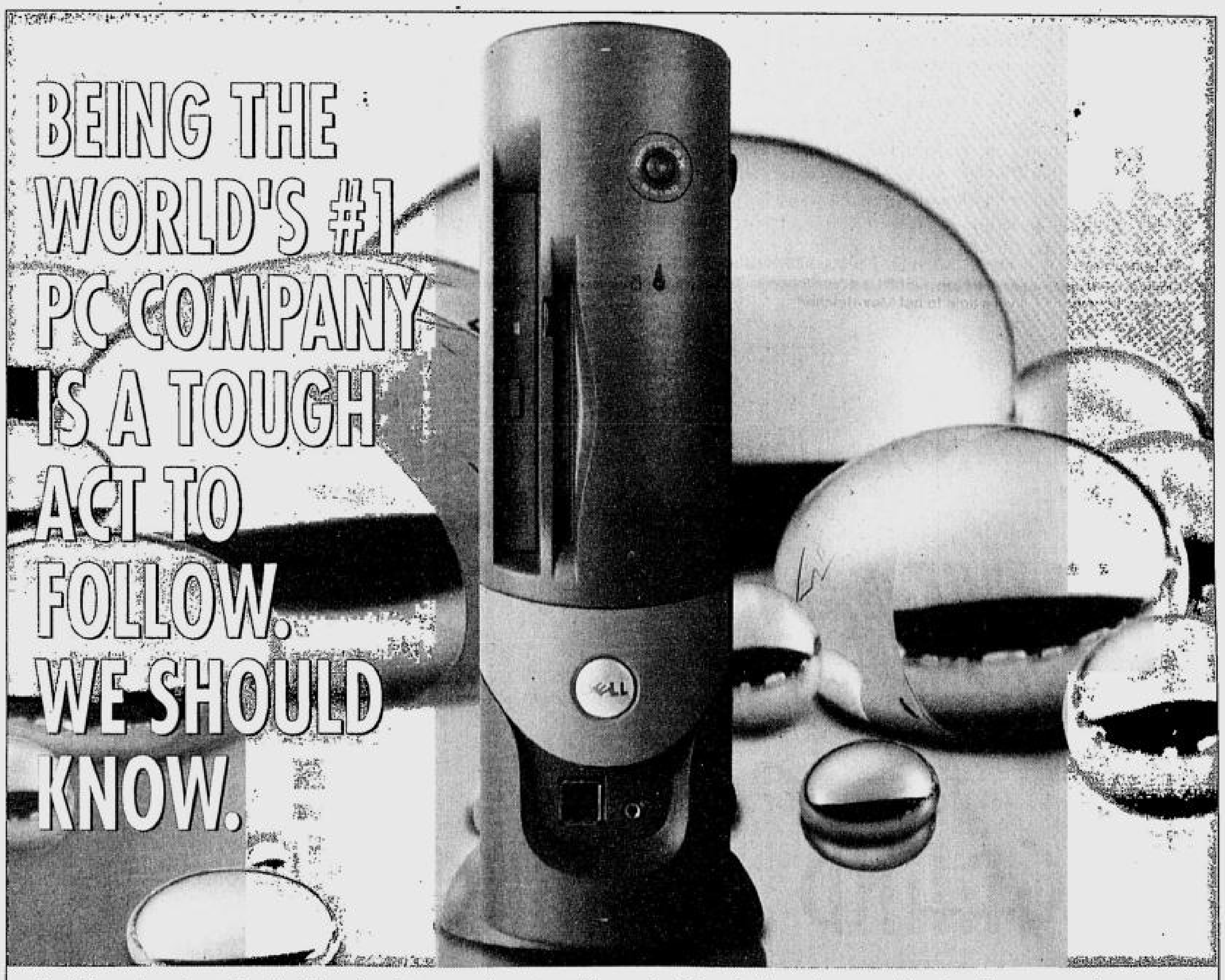
In order to move the case faster, the government has dropped the idea of a Microsoft break-up and abandoned one of its original charges against the company.

Rather than break up Microsoft, the government said it will ask for restrictions on Microsoft's business tactics that would be modeled after a set of interim sanctions handed down last year by the trial court judge in the case, US District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson.

That remedy, among other things, would require the company to give outside software developers greater access to the Windows source code, the basic programming instructions for its software.

It also would ban Microsoft from bolting so-called middleware into Windows unless it is made removable from the operating system. Middleware is software that connects two otherwise separate applications.

Reuters



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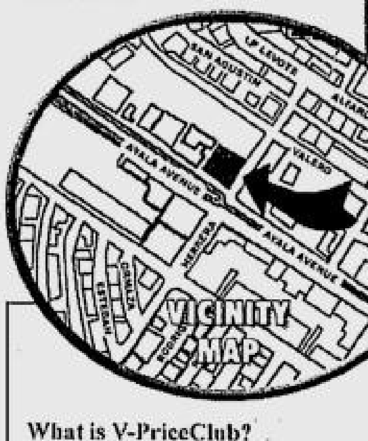

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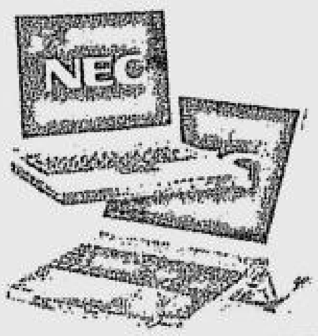

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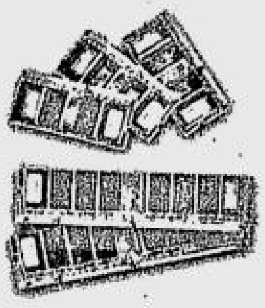

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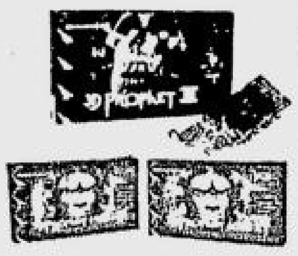

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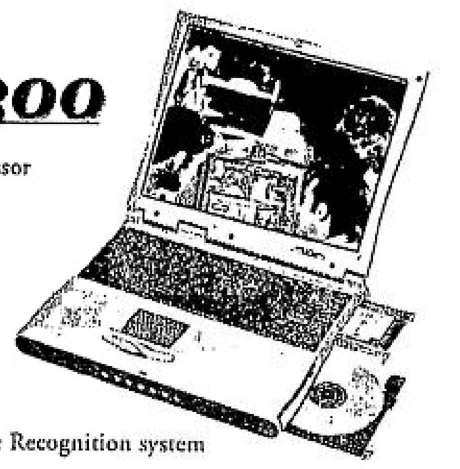

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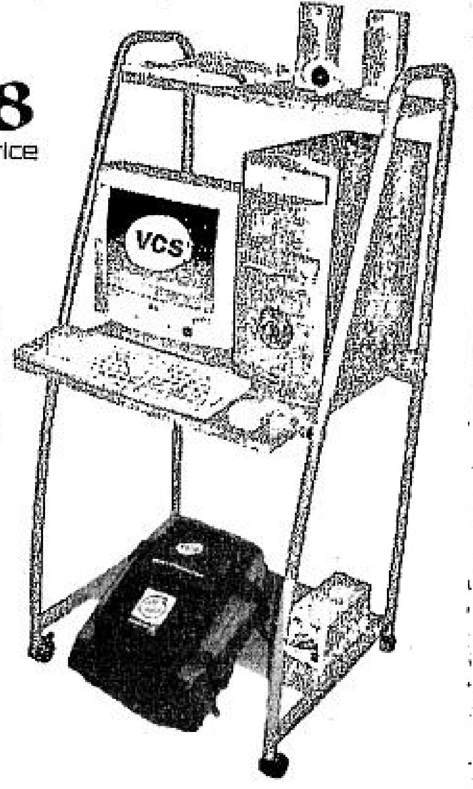

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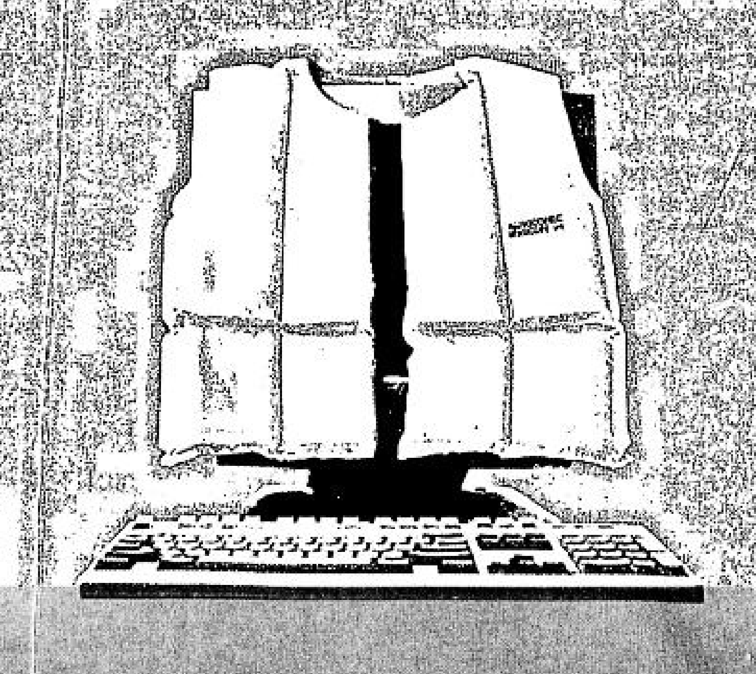

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IT park developer may double RP investments

By Erwin Oliva

INFORMATION technology (IT) and science park developer Ascendas Philippines Corp. is considering doubling its investments in the Philippines in the next three to five years, company officials said.

"If the investment scene in the Philippines improves, we're willing to put in more investments in the country. But we will be flexible enough," said Chong Siak Ching, president and chief executive officer of Singapore-based parent company Ascendas Pte. Ltd., during a briefing in Manila.

Chong said Ascendas Philippines has invested about $56 million since 1997 in the development of the first phase of the 145-hectare Carmelray Industrial Park II in Calamba, Laguna. Development of the second phase will start next year, he said.

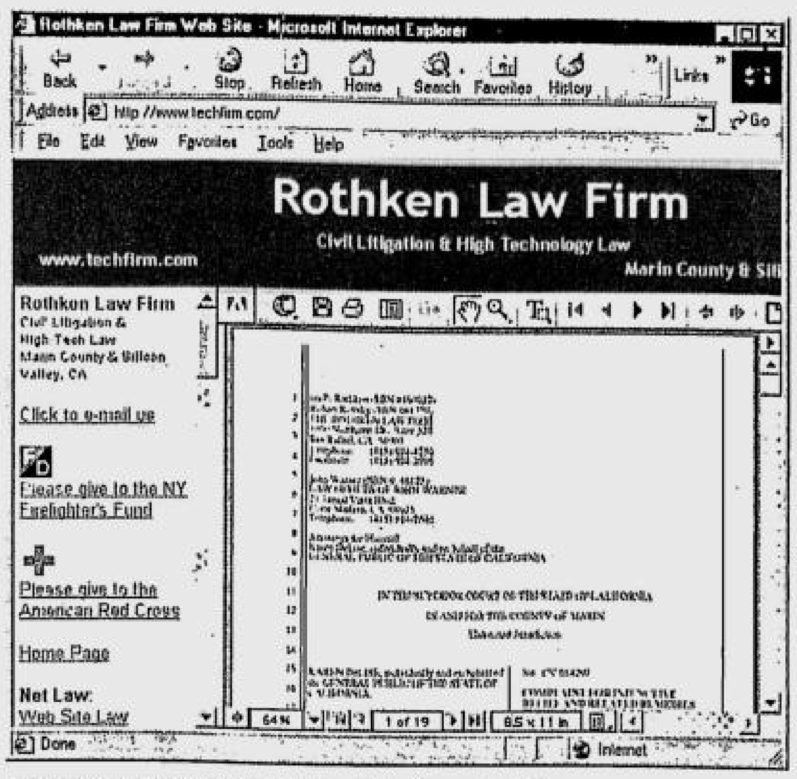
Chong said 10 locators have signed up for Carmelray II, including five Japanese manufacturers, a German company, two Malaysian companies, a Singaporean company, and a Japanese-Singaporean-Filipino manufacturer known as L&M Tech Inc.

The industrial park at present has 35 locators that have brought in more than $152 million in foreign direct investments and opened 3,000 jobs, the company said. The present locators include Three-Five Systems, Franke Contract Group, Psi Technologies, Tungaloy and Kyushu Matsushita.

The company said only 25 percent of Carmelray II's land area is being used but the industrial park has the second-highest number of locators among all public and private economic zones in the Philippines, according to the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.

"Japanese firms are still considering the Philippines as the destination for low-cost manufacturing," said Ho Chee Wu, vice president and head of marketing of Ascenda Philippines, adding that the company expects to sign up one locator every month until yearend.

Ching, for her part, said that she has been receiving inquiries from different companies who are looking for a place to locate their call center operations.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Lawsuit targets digital music

SAN FRANCISCO—A woman has sued for unfair business practices over a Charley Pride CD that she says won't play in her home computer because of technology to thwart unauthorized copying and sharing of digital music.

Karen DeLise sued Music City Records and SunnComm Inc., saying the CD won't play in her home computer or allow her to convert the song tracks into MP3 files.

SunnComm's technology allows the CD to be played in conventional devices such as stereo systems and portable CD players. Computer CD drives, however, will not play it.

Instead, once the CD is placed in a computer CD tray, the user is directed to a website where the song tracks can be downloaded in a protected digital format. Those downloaded files can't be burned to CD or shared with file-sharing programs.

DeLise is not seeking any monetary damages—merely a better disclosure of what the CD will and won't do on the packaging label, said her attorney, Ira Rothken.

"If you go to the store and buy a CD, you have a reasonable expectation that it's going to have the functionality of millions sold before it, unless you have a notice that informs you of the material differences," Rothken said.

The suit, filed earlier this month, asks that people who have purchased the CD be allowed to return it. The Pride CD was released last year.

Bob Heatherly, president of Nashville-based Music City Records, said the idea of protecting the music from unauthorized copying was in part Pride's idea.

"He brought it up about people being able to rip the song writers and the next person off," Heatherly said. "If you live here around the artists, you'll realize there's a real good reason why they call them starving artists."

A call to Pride's manager was not immediately returned.

The warning on the Pride CD says the buyer is getting music with a technology twist, reading in part:

"This audio CD is protected by SunnComm MediaCloq Ver. 1.0. It is designed to play in standard Audio CD players only and is not intended for use in DVD players."

Rothken argues that such a statement does not make it clear that "licensed copies" won't work on some portable digital music players and that the CD cannot be played on a personal computer.

SunnComm's president and chief executive officer, Peter H. Jacobs, defends the technology.

"The question is 'Do artists and record companies have the right to limit the uses of a CD? And of course the answer is, 'Yes,'" Jacobs said. "If you can't do something to start at least protecting the distribution of music itself, then you jeopardize the way music is created in this country." *AP*

MosCom in Iloilo upgrades bandwidth

CAMP Internet Online Services, MosCom's point-of-presence (PoP) in Iloilo province, has activated its E1 connection recently via PLDT's frame relay network. This arrangement allows the MosCom PoP to take advantage of lower operating costs and flexibility of expansion as their business and market grow.

Utilizing a 512/E1 frame relay network is like leasing two lanes of an eight-lane superhighway. The other six lanes are open for lease to other service providers, thus allowing several companies to share the cost of building the superhighway. On the other hand, it is expected that the lanes will not be totally used by all the companies, thereby giving each lessee the flexibility to add more lanes should their subscribers increase.

"We get to take advantage of the lower cost of frame relay lines compared to (getting) a dedicated lease line for ourselves that we may not be able to use fully," said Jefferson Uy, manager of MosCom Iloilo. "With frame relay, we are not forced to increase our rates to get higher bandwidth since we can efficiently utilize the resources of the network. It's a win-win situation for us and our customers. They are happy with our faster speed without needing to shell out more money for it."

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Hitachi to retain RP workers despite slowdown

BY ERWIN OLIVA

JAPANESE firm Hitachi Ltd is expecting no job cuts in its manufacturing plant in the Philippines, an official told the INQUIRER Thursday night.

"Hitachi is not cutting down jobs in the local manufacturing plant," said Jose Allan Tan, speaking in behalf of Hitachi Computer Products (Asia) Corp. Philippines (Hicap).

Tan is the newly appointed country manager of Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) Philippines, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd that operates the local sales office of the Japanese firm. HDS is a sister company of Hicap, which is also a wholly owned Hitachi subsidiary.

Hicap manufactures and exports hard disk drives and magnetic heads (a component of the hard disk drive) in the 83,000 square meter plant at the Special Export Processing Zone in Laguna Technopark in Biñan, Laguna.

It currently employs 4,700 workers, and operates at two shifts, six days a week, Tan said.

The Biñan manufacturing plant builds 2.5-inch hard disk drives (designed for PC notebooks) and 3.5-inch hard disk drives for file storage systems called RAID (redundant array of independent disks; originally redundant array of inexpensive disks), Tan said.

The company began operations back in April 1995 with an initial capital of P2 billion.

"When there is a recession in the US or in other parts of the world, it does not mean that we will start firing people. It's just that we're expecting slower growth this fiscal year," Tan said.

Hitachi's fiscal year 2001 ends March 2002.

He noted that the slowdown in the global PC industry has not directly hurt the manufacturing business of Hitachi in the Philippines because the company decided 18 months ago to focus on the storage industry, which requires a different type of hard disk drive.

Tan said that Hitachi is even anticipating a surge in demand for its hard disk drives following a partnership with computer maker Sun Microsystems, and the anticipated renewal of the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) agreement with Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP) for another two years.

Hitachi has been the supplier of hard disk drives for computer systems manufactured by HP.

D-Link delivers wireless network solutions for PCs, notebooks

D-LINK International Pte Ltd. has launched its DWL-Series of Wireless Networking Products based on the IEEE 802.11b standards.

D-Link is offering two high-speed 11-megabit wireless adapters—DWL-500 for a desktop PC and DWL-650 for a notebook PC—and the DWL-1 000AP Access Point to extend the range of the wireless network. Once connected with other networked PCs, users can share hard disk drives, DVD drives, CD drives, Iomega Zip drives and printers. It also provides shared access to an analog, cable or DSL modem for Internet access.

"This technology opens up a whole new world of possibilities for mobile computing," said George Wong, area manager at D-Link International. "The DWL series of wireless LAN products conforms to the industry standard IEEE-802.11 b and that is good news for users who are looking for interoperability between different vendors. Our wireless LAN products can work with any other vendors' that also conform to the IEEE-802.11 b standard."

The D-Link DWL-650 and the DWL-500 both can connect point-to-point with each other (ad hoc mode) or use an access point to extend the reach of its communications capability (infrastructure mode). Both network adapters have full mobility and seamless roaming across access points. The range of coverage per cell for indoor use is up to 100 meters and up to 300 meters per cell for outdoor use.

The DWL-650 is a PCMCIA Type-II 11-Mbps wireless network adapter, while the DWL-500 is a PCI 11-Mbps wireless network adapter. Both wireless adapters will operate in 2.4 GHz Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum (DSSS) for wireless networks in the home or office environment. The DWL-650 and the DWL-500 are designed with the ability to operate in 3.3V or 5.0V DC. In addition, both wireless adapters use a 40-bit WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) Encryption for a secure network connection.

70 US firms want to outsource ICT, backroom operations in RP

AT LEAST 70 US-based companies are looking at outsourcing their backroom operations and information and communications technology (ICT) requirements in the Philippines in view of last week's terrorist attacks in the United States.

This was disclosed in a teleconference by a Filipino-American group that is organizing the first Philippine ICT exposition in the US.

The devastation of the World Trade Center and partial destruction of the Pentagon have sparked the interest of many US companies in transferring their backroom operations and outsourcing their ICT requirements in countries like the Philippines, according to Enrique C. Andres, chief executive of Asia Expo Organization Corp. (AEOC).

AEOC, a US-based trade promotion company, is organizing the first annual Philippine ICT Trade, Investment and Tourism Business Conference that will be held at the Hilton Burbank Convention Center in Burbank, California, on Nov. 6 to 7. The conference aims to match US firms with Philippine IT firms engaged in outsourcing services.

AEOC is also working with the US Department of Commerce, through its Commercial Service Unit (CSU).

Andres said that the CSU has committed to provide the conference organizers with a database of US firms interested in either investing or extending their businesses in the Philippines.

"Notwithstanding the latest tragic incident, we will push through with the project because it is timely," Andres said. "Most US firms want to cut down on cost. Filipino companies can fill up the gaps by providing them economical solutions at this time of crisis and a global slowdown."

He said at least 21 American companies in the medical transcription sector and several US hospitals have indicated plans to outsource their services in the Philippines. *Erwin Oliva*

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DAY 2 (Oct. 5, 2001)

Session 4
PREDICTING CONSUMER PURCHASE BEHAVIOR
By: Mr. Ambrosio Reyes
Director for Operations, A C Nielsen Philippines

Session 5
QUANTIFYING CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CREATIVITY OF AN ADVERTISEMENT
By: Ms. Darrah Estrada
Managing Director, Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines

Session 6
UNDERSTANDING CONSUMERS' IN-STORE SHOPPING BEHAVIOR AND THEIR ROLE IN SALES PROMOTIONS
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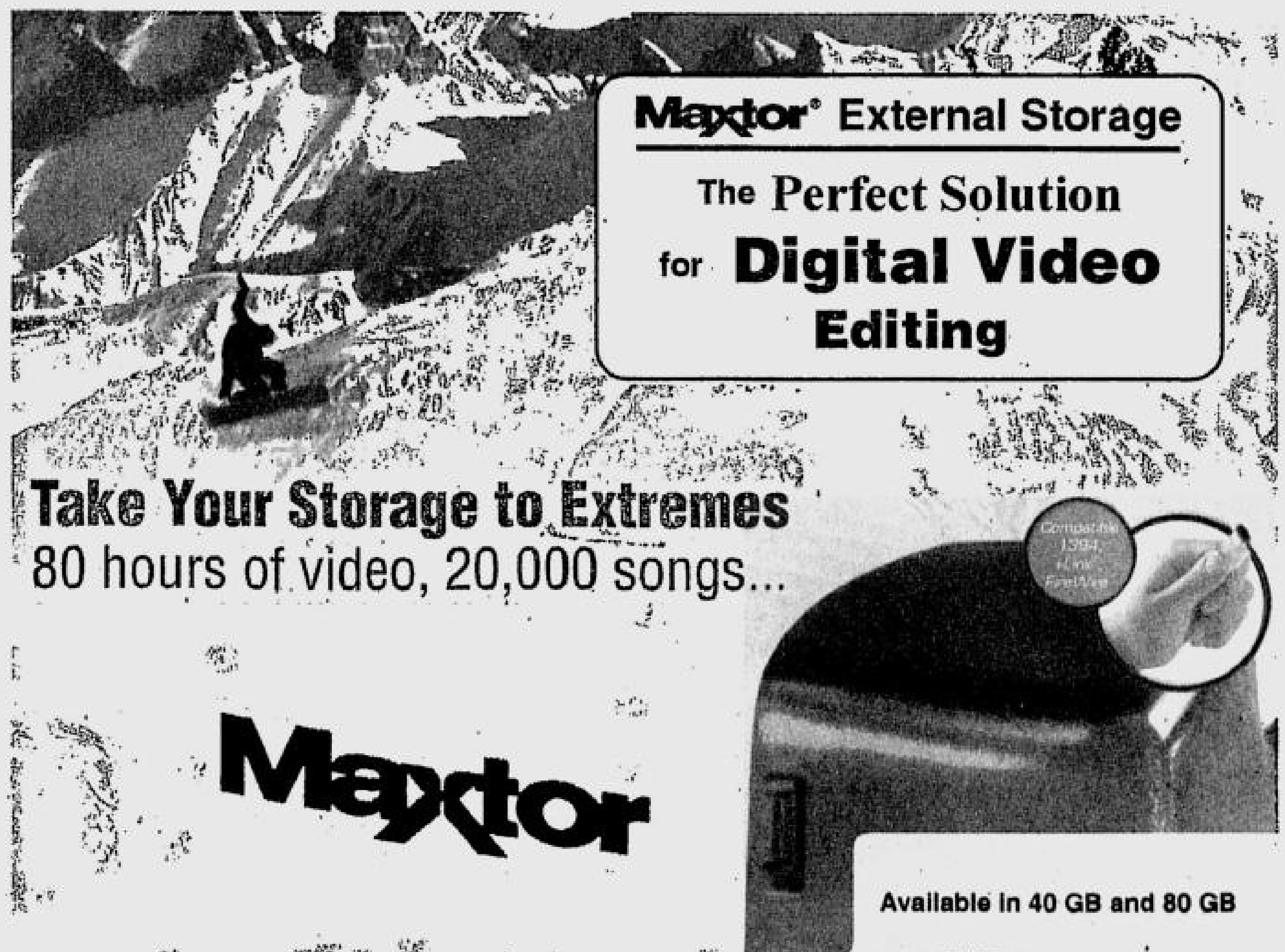
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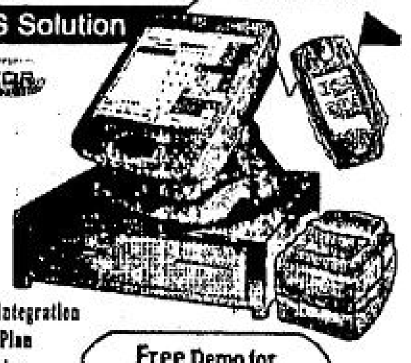

Revealing your program icons

BY JERRY LIAO

SOMETIMES, you need to see the icon of a certain application under your Start/Programs menu. Heres how to do it:

(1) Position your mouse pointer to "Start" and right click the right mouse button

(2) Choose "Open"

(3) Your "Start Menu" dialog box will appear. Double-click on "Programs"

(4) The icons of your applications under the Start/Programs menu will be displayed

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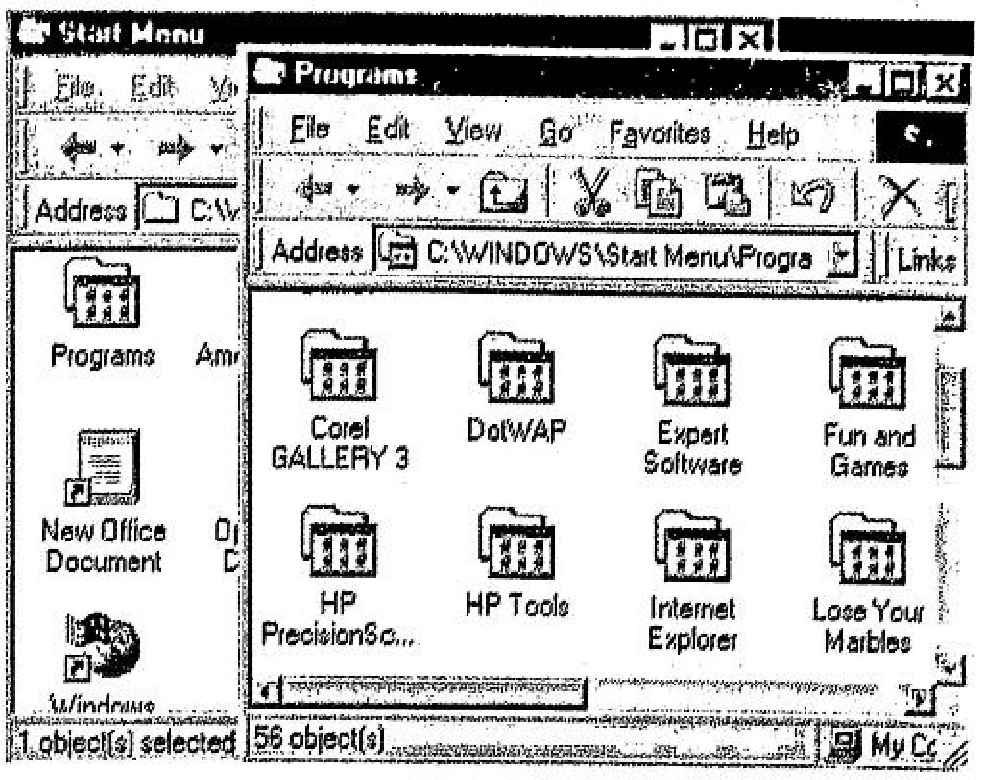

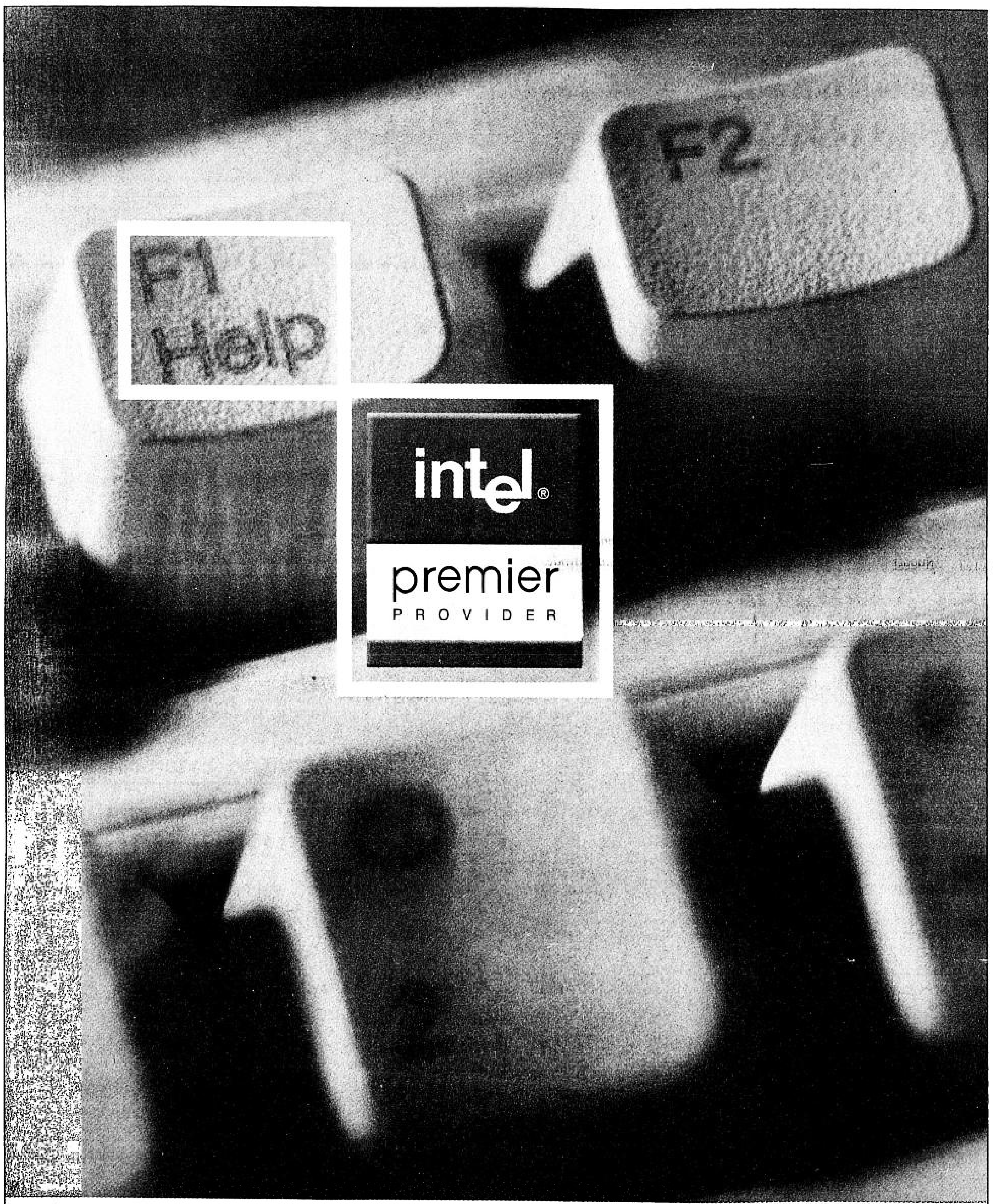

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Internet gives US lifeline to the world

(From page D1)

been bombarded with death threats," he told wired.com.

E-commerce had winners, losers and villains after the tragedy.

The online bookseller amazon.com on Thursday reported a huge upturn in demand for books on the history and architecture of the World Trade Center, on terrorism and on Nostradamus, the 16th-century French doomsday prophet.

At least half a dozen sites put up pledging windows for the American Red Cross, the World Trade Center Disaster Relief Fund and the New York Community Trust and contributions as of Thursday were at least $1.8 million.

But some companies suffered, notably online travel agents and delivery services, which were hit by the suspension of all airline and freight flights to and from the US, news.com reported.

Others tried to cash in on the disaster.

Media reported attempts to hawk debris from the World Trade Center at online auction sites, while a small US telecoms company sent out a spam e-mail, selling a discount phone card, 10 percent of whose proceeds would be donated to unnamed "victims" of the attacks.

The Net itself withstood the shifting demands and the loss of a big data transport node in New York when the World Trade Center collapsed, experts said.

They paid tribute to its infrastructure and those who set down its fundamental design more than three decades ago as a web, in which a break in one strand would not prevent data from using other strands to reach its destination.

"It appears to be standing up very well. If you look at the linked traffic statistics, you'll see we're tracking the same amount as normal," Vanessa Evans, marketing manager of the London Internet Exchange, which routes data to and from Britain, said. *AFP*

Palm reports . . .

(From page D3)

not significantly hurt Palm's bottom line.

"With an uncertainty (regarding) Christmas and consumers, and after the terrorist attacks, we simply thought this wasn't the optimal time launch the product," said Palm chief executive Carl Yankowski. "So we are focusing our marketing dollars (on existing products) as opposed to deluding ourselves with the launch of another product. It's really not more complicated than that.

Analysts, perplexed by the development, asked the company repeatedly on a conference call to explain why they would delay the high-end model, seen as a key piece in Palm's strategy in staving off devices powered by Microsoft Corp.'s Pocket PC software.

"Anyone can be forgiven in the current environment—the bombings are going to impact everyone in the quarter," said CIBC World Markets analyst Tom Sepenzis, referring to last week's hijacked jets that were crashed into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"But to not get the wireless device out, that just makes no sense," he said. "That's the last thing anyone needed to hear."

This further further spoils perceptions about Palm's ability to deliver, they said. Earlier this year, manufacturing problems delayed it from shipping its high-end m500 series, and led to a glut of devices that some say sparked a price war with rival handheld maker Handspring Inc.

"It's difficult to interpret this in a neutral or even positive way, given Palm's history of poor execution," said C.E. Unterberg Towbin analyst Scott Miller.

Earlier, Palm said its first quarter pro forma net loss, which excludes special items such as restructuring charges, totaled $38.7 million, or seven cents a share, compared with a pro forma profit of $23.9 million, or four cents a share, in the year-ago period.

The Wall Street consensus estimate was for a loss of nine cents, ranging from a loss of seven cents to a loss of 11 cents, according to Thomson Financial/First Call. Actual net loss for the first quarter, which ended Aug. 31, was $32.4 million, or six cents a share, compared with net income of $17.3 million, or three cents a share.

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'M. Butterfly' writer David Henry Hwang, whose mother is from Cebu, has recast the musical to rid it of Asian stereotypes

LEA Salonga performs "Love Look Away" from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical.

EXCLUSIVE

Salonga, Fil-Am costar offer first glimpse of 'Flower Drum Song'

BY RUBEN V. NEPALES

LOS ANGELES—Lea Salonga and several key members of the cast and creative team of "Flower Drum Song" recently offered a first glimpse of the upcoming revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. The event, a Meet-the-Artist reception in downtown Los Angeles' Music Center, also presented Salonga's latest leading man, Jose Llana, who is Filipino-American.

Salonga and Llana sang together for the first time before an audience. The two performers also participated in an informal panel discussion about the major "remaking" of "Flower Drum Song," a musical set in San Francisco's Chinatown, which opens on Oct. 14 at the Mark Taper Forum.

The reception was underwritten by the Center Theater Group (CTG), which is producing "Flower Drum Song." The Philippines' consul general in Los Angeles, Edwin Bael, and his wife, Betty Bael, to act as the official hosts. The event attracted a large turnout, especially from the Filipino and Chinese communities, despite the pall cast by the Sept. 11 tragedy over all sectors in the US, including the entertainment industry.

Gordon Davidson, artistic director of the CTG and Mark Taper Forum, lighted a candle and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the

SALONGA/ p.E4

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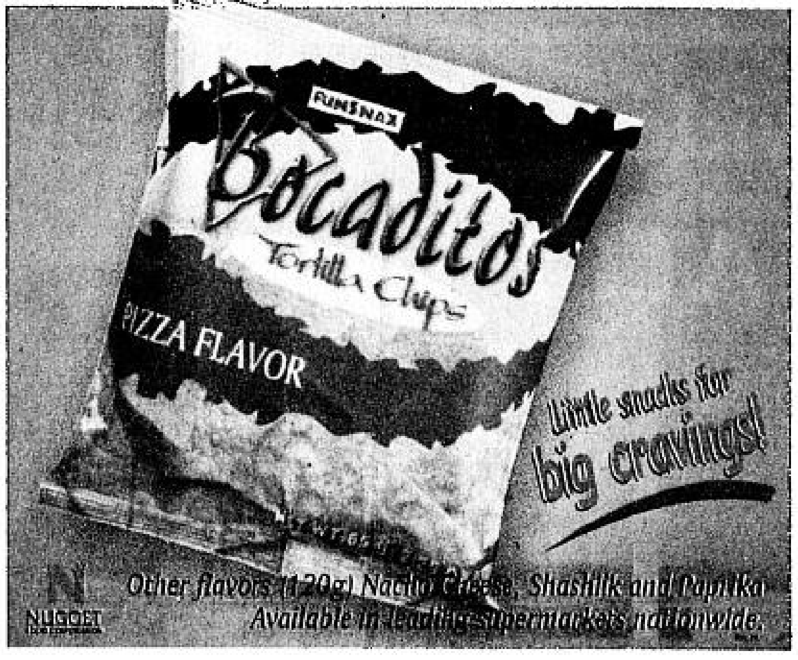

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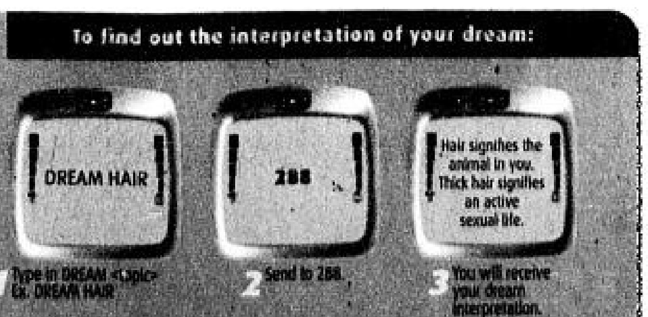

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ROSALINDA OROSA DECORATED

Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui of France confers the Order of Merit, rank of officer, on Rosalinda Orosa, columnist and writer on culture and the arts, at a recent reception at the ambassador's residence in North Forbes Park. Ms Orosa was cited for having played a major role in the promotion of culture in general and of French culture in particular.

PHOTO BY ROMMY HORMILLOSA

Color our government maroon

HOW many government officials had graduated from the University of the Philippines? Here's a clue: You can practically color the Cabinet, Senate and Congress maroon. From UP president Dr. Francisco Nemenzo's count, about a little over 50 current officials are graduates of the university. All were recently invited to a dinner tribute at the UP president's official residence at the Diliman campus.

Hosted by Prof. Jose Endriga, UP VP for public affairs and attended by over 50 chancellors, deans and college secretaries from across the UP system, the event was highlighted by reactions from alumni Senate President Franklin Drilon, Rep. Aniceto G. Saludo (Southern Leyte) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor. UP was lauded for continuing its mission of providing premier education to Filipinos despite budget constraints.

Also on hand were Budget and Management Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong, Local Government Secretary Jose Lina, Sen. Francisco Pangilinan and National Economic Development Authority director-general Dante Canlas, who is also a professor on leave from the UP School of Economics, plus Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac.

Congress was well represented with Rep. Antonio M. Abaya (Isabela), Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo (Aurora) Rep. Salacnib F. Baterina (Ilocos Sur), Rep. Edgar M. Chatto (Bohol), Rep. Arthur D. Defensor (Iloilo), Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales (Akbayan) and Rep. Wilfrido B. Villarama (Bulacan).

Graduates of the UP College of Music and baritone Marvin Gayramon, soprano Bituin Domincel and pianist Michelle Nicolasora performed much-appreciated numbers. Food and catering services were provided by the UP College of Home Economics and the University Food Service.

DPWH Secretary Simeon Datumanong (right) makes a point to UP president Dr. Francisco Nemenzo and Senate President Franklin Drilon

AURORA Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, UP VP for public affairs Prof. Jose N. Endriga and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales

SOUTHERN Leyte Rep. Aniceto G. Saludo in a huddle with Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor

UP Diliman Chancellor Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman welcomes Isabela Rep. Antonio M. Abaya

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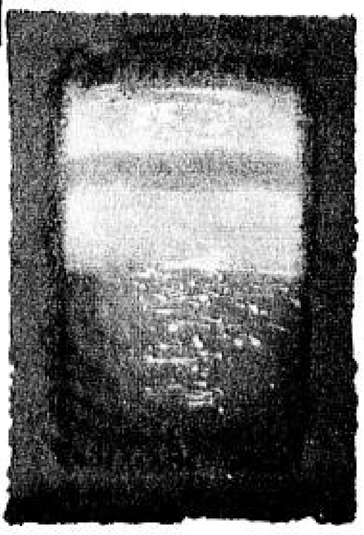
VISUAL ARTS

ERWIN Leaño's "Green Mountains" consists of oil paintings that trace different emotions drawn from the artist's trips to the North. It opens on Sept. 27 at the West Gallery, SM Megamall. Call 634-1284. Photo shows Leaño's artwork entitled "Mountain Side."



EDGAR Talusan Fernandez will present "Variations on a Theme of Light" at Hiraya Gallery (530 United Nations Ave. in Ermita, Manila) on Sept. 29. The show features 24 abstract paintings, in oil on canvas and acrylic on handmade paper, that pay tribute to artistic rebirth and spiritual renewal. Exhibit runs until Oct. 20. Call 523-3331.

HERZON opens his 25th one-man exhibition dubbed "Hanging Scroll" tonight at Gallery Y-SM Megamall. The show consists of oil paintings presenting fantastic visions and runs until Oct. 4. Call 634-2704.

Fluvial procession of Our Lady of Peñafrancia is a blessing for devotees

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHILE talks of war loomed over our heads, Bicolanos and devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia waited patiently for the fluvial procession, which started from the cathedral and ended at the banks of the Naga river.

Some bureaucratic hassle delayed the proceedings so that by the time we saw the barge of the Virgin finally come into view from the back of Evelyn Soriano's house, it was almost dark. But it was a blessing because we clearly saw lighted candles planted on the ground down the stretch of the river. White handkerchiefs seemed to float in mid-air as people waved them. It is said that when the statue of the Virgin passes by your place, you'll be blessed.

For first-timers like Susie Rueda, Bebe Lontoc and Dada Moreno, it was a beautiful experience. They were with friends Penny Zosa and Marichi Guysayko, sisters of Colacho Guysayko, who made sure that they go to Naga for the fiesta on the third Saturday of September. Their cousin, Marilen Sidri, was there, too.

I went with friends Pol Capistrano and Ali Garcia. Our Lady of Peñafrancia, patroness of Bicol, is also our patroness.

Judging from the celebration, one could surmise that the Virgin had touched the people's lives. Farmers waited for the fiesta to get flowers or plants from her *carroza*, which they would plant so they would have a good harvest.

During the *translacion*, which transferred the image from the Basilica to the Naga Cathedral for the nine-day novena, men carried her *anda*. They alternated in holding the long *anda* as a fulfillment of their *panata*. For them, touching the base of the Virgin's image was enough.

Thousands attended the procession on Sept. 15, which we watched from the house of former Comelec chair Ramon Felipe.

Men swayed the *anda* from one side to the other as others tried to climb the *anda* to touch the base of the Virgin's image. Such was the faith of Bicolanos.

Those who were not able to go to Naga can write me for an *estampita* prayer. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope with one P5 stamp for mailing.

Nuestra Señora de Dapitan in Sampaloc

I CAME to know about the chapel housing Nuestra Señora de Dapitan from Linda Cruz. The chapel is at 1272 Vicente Cruz St., Sampaloc, and is run by its founder, Leonor Martinez Ong. Also inside the chapel is the image of the Black Nazarene.

Ong is also called Nanay Dapitan. She teaches those who visit the chapel to recite the Rosary seven times a day to give thanks to the Blessed Virgin.

Visitors are also encouraged to bow and kneel before the Black Nazarene. When one holds His feet, one can feel His presence. In this chapel of the Nuestra Señora de Dapitan, one can truly feel God's love.

Nanay Dapitan says: "The word of God is not a load or burden that we need to carry, but something that should be felt, thought and acted upon. Then and only then would our hearts' desires be ours to keep."

Rosary for peace

ANGELO Casimiro is asking peace groups to recite the Rosary for peace, at least once a day. He says that he is personally committed to saying one Rosary a day for peace in the United States and around the world. Through his e-mail, he has been able to get 195 pledges. Those who wish to pledge can e-mail him at angelodesign@earthlink.net. Angelo belongs to the Medjugorje prayer group.

St. Therese feast

CARMELITE Fr. Bob Colaresi reminds that St. Therese of the Child Jesus' feast is on Oct. 1. Novena Masses began on Sept. 23.

Father Bob writes: "I invite you to forward your novena intentions to me. Together, we will lift them up to the Lord through the intercession of St. Therese."

To participate in this joyous celebration of our beloved "Little Flower," please visit http://www.littleflower.org/celebrations/index.html/feast.

San Lorenzo Ruiz's miracle

LOURDES R. Policarpio writes that her daughter Ria was cured through the intercession of San Lorenzo Ruiz. When Lorenzo Ruiz was canonized on Oct. 18, 1987, Lourdes' child Ria was one of the children asked to participate in the offertory during the Mass. She carried the gift of the Philippines to the Holy Father.

There was also a miracle story shared with her by Sr. Florecilla Inzon, OP, medical officer of the Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz Commission.

In 1987, a few days before the canonization of the saint, some devotees were in the Lorenzo Ruiz office at the Pius XII Catholic Center when a woman dressed in a bright yellow dress walked in and asked in British accent "Where is Lorenzo Ruiz? I want to talk to him."

The lady was a Filipina who grew up in London. She came to Manila to trace her family roots in San Andres Bukid. When told that Lorenzo Ruiz was a 16th-century saint, the lady was flabbergasted, especially when she saw his statue.

Sol Altura Yu is a devotee of San Lorenzo. Whenever she goes to America, she brings with her small statues of the saint which she gives to friends. Tita Sol believes in San Lorenzo Ruiz's intercession.

Churches which have images of the saint are Binondo Church, Malate Church, Ermita Church and Paco Church. Novena Masses began Sept. 19 and will

FLUVIAL/ p.E5

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SHS Dela Rosa	- Sept. 28	810-8997
SHS Forbes	- Sept. 29	840-2632
SHS-CAC Goodwill	- Sept. 30	813-4956 / 893-9079
SHS Malabon	- Oct. 6	362-3154

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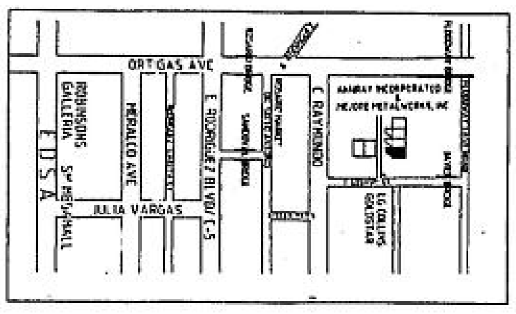

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Salonga, Fil-Am costar offer first glimpse of 'Flower Drum Song'

(From page E1)

victims of the terrorist attacks. Davidson then welcomed the guests into the main hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion's Salvatori Room and introduced Yet Lock, chair of the Asian Pacific American Friends (Apaf) of the CTG, who gave brief remarks. Four Filipino-Americans are on the executive board of Apaf: Norma Austin, Sally Bague, Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal and Ludy Ongkeko.

Betty Bael and Fritz Friedman, cochair of a fund-raising gala performance of "Flower" on Oct. 11, spoke next. Bael stressed the support of the Filipino-American community for the musical, especially since it will "showcase the pride of the Philippines, Lea Salonga and Jose Llana." The active promoter of Filipino talent elicited a surprised appreciative murmur from the crowd when she revealed that the mother of David Henry Hwang, the Tony award-winning playwright who revised "Flower" for the restaging, is from Cebu. She explained that Hwang, who is best known for "M. Butterfly," was supposed to be present but he couldn't fly out of New York in time for the reception because of the flight cancellations.

Friedman, one of the few Filipino-Americans occupying key positions in Hollywood (he is the senior vice president of Columbia Tristar Home Video), introduced Salonga and Llana, a very promising performer who plays Wang Ta and has appeared in productions of "Rent," "The King and I" and "Martin Guerre." Salonga, in a black Chinese-style tunic, and Llana sang "You Are Beautiful" as a duet. It is apparently one of the many changes in Hwang's new version of "Flower." The song was a solo piece by a male character in both the 1958 original Broadway production and the 1961 film version. The two performers, both wearing red, white and blue ribbons in sympathy for the terrorist victims, exchanged a friendly kiss after their duet, which met applause.

Salonga next sang "Love Look Away" and received another resounding applause. In another shift from the original, Salonga's Mei Li character now gets to sing this lovely ballad. Salonga later expressed, much to the audience's amusement, her delight that this song, originally sung by a character named Helen Chow, is now hers. She exclaimed, "I'm thankful that they have now given it to me. I've got it!"

Reinterpretation

Davidson moderated the informal panel discussion and a brief Q-and-A portion with the audience that followed. The veteran figure in the American theater field called on the panel participants to sit on armchairs ("Those are serious armchairs," he quipped) arranged on a dais. The panel included Salonga, Llana, Robert "Bobby" Longbottom, the revival's director and choreographer, whose credits include "The Scarlet Pimpernel"; Alvin Ing, a cast member who was also in the original touring production in the 1960s; Jodi Long, who plays Madame Liang; and Madeline Puzo, an associate producer at the Mark Taper Forum.

Davidson started off the casual discussion by commenting that Hwang is "bringing 'Flower Drum Song' back to life and reinterpreting it for today's sensibilities with a real connection to the Asian-American experience both in a serious way and in a theatrical way. Since it hasn't had a major revival since 1958, the show will be a big event."

Majority of the conversation centered on the differences between the original and the 2001 production and on the concern that the revival will perpetuate Asian stereotypes, particularly the stock image of the Asian female as passive or submissive.

JOSE Llana, Salonga's latest leading man

Ing, having the remarkable opportunity of being involved in the old and new productions, offered this perspective: "I don't want to put the original down because I made my living from it for many, many years. When I compare the storyline, the original was somewhat saccharine and a little too sweet.

"Whereas I feel that David (Hwang) has put some depth and weight to the story so that it really means something more to me and I hope to everybody else. He has infused it with a new kind of energy, a new kind of insight. He brought a bit of Communist China into the story whereas the original kept away from all the politicking. That's why I feel this production has a lot more meat to it."

On the concern about the original show and movie's portrayal of Asians, especially the Mei Li character, the dapper, silver-haired Ing with a youthful glint in his eyes said, "The old Mei Li was a mail-order bride. She was a very passive character. She had no real control of her life. I really encouraged David to look into that character. On one hand, even the old Mei Li decides to leave Communist China and flee and put herself in great danger to pursue whatever dream she wants to be. She takes control. That's why this story is relevant for me and very much of the period because she is aggressive, she takes action. She takes chances."

The Mei Li that Salonga plays "is not the passive Asian stereotype," Ing continued. "She evolves. She starts as an immigrant and you'd think she's going to be the passive Asian female. But no, she doesn't become that. She becomes a stronger person." He added that the other characters evolve as well. "We are breaking down those stereotypes," Ing stated. It is worth noting here that Hwang was given an unprecedented permission by the Rodgers and Hammerstein estate to write virtually a new libretto.

Salonga amused the audience again when Davidson asked her if she ever imagined herself as Mei Li when she watched the film adaptation. She responded, "At that time, the role of Mei Li didn't seem as large so I didn't give it as much attention." The crowd laughed and cheered Salonga's early ambition to go for the big roles. "I was a child!" a smiling Salonga said in mock defense. Hwang's revision has probably made the Mei Li role big enough to counter the impact of another female character, Linda Low, who delivers the show's most familiar audience pleaser, "I Enjoy Being a Girl." Nancy Kwan made the most of this showstopper in the movie version. Sandra Allen gets to vamp this number at the Taper.

Different

Asked how her Mei Li will be different from actress Miyoshi Umeki's take on the role in the screen version and how she is preparing for the role, Salonga replied, "It is different. Unfortunately, I don't remember too much of the movie. I do remember that it was a fun thing to watch. And in preparation for this, I did not watch the movie. I did not want to remind myself of that piece because I knew, after having met with Bobby (Longbottom), that it was going to be a brand-new script, the songs were going to be redistributed so I had to treat it like a brand-new piece. I had a script character meeting with David and with Bobby and they gave a lot of information. I heard about other experiences from other people and I galvanized all of that and kind of put it into a big pot and tried to see what person will come out. That's pretty much how I am approaching it."

"I'm also trying to remember what it was like when I first arrived in the West from the Philippines because I moved to London when I was 18," she went on. "And remembering what it felt like to have that culture shock being there. I had been pretty sheltered in Manila. I mean, you have drivers, maids—those of us from the Philippines know how that is like." (The audience laughed.)

"*Katulong* (Maids)," Llana chimed in.

Salonga nodded and continued, "*Katulong*, and you have your parents and friends and school. I went to London and it was like, oh my God, immediately you're just thrown into a whole different world. And I had to learn a whole lot. I had to grow up really fast. For this role, I had to remember being displaced and not being in a safe and comfortable environment. That kind of translates also to coming here because I have lived in New York for 10 years. I had to learn how to drive in order to live here in California. It was not easy but I knew it was necessary. I'm trying to recapture that experience of trying to find a comfort zone in a new place."

Turning to Longbottom, Salonga added, "Vocally, even though you advised me to listen to the Broadway CD, I avoided it. I just met with David Chase (music director whose credits include the Tony award winner "Music Man") and he taught me the music. I just didn't want to be influenced by anybody's particular style or vocal performance. I wanted it to come from someplace that was mine and from bouncing off and working with Jose and with Alvin, Jodi and with everybody. In essence, it's a whole new script. The only thing that's the same is the music. And even the songs are being redistributed. Helen Chow originally sang "Love Look Away." Sammy Fong originally sang "Don't Marry Me" with Mei Li. Now he's singing it with Madame Liang. Every character has been given different responsibilities. For example, Sammy Fong and Wang San are now one person here. And there are a lot of other things that hopefully we'll still be able to surprise you with but after having talked about it for so long tonight..."

After Salonga, Llana, Ing and Long were given flower bouquets, we asked Consul General Bael how he, as representative of the Filipino-American community in Los Angeles, felt about seeing Filipino talents on the centerstage. He stated, "Lea and Jose are showing that there could be higher benchmarks of accomplishments [for Filipinos]. We are hoping that the community could find in themselves or by looking at Lea and Jose, for example, that wherever they are, whatever they are doing, they can also do better. We are extremely proud of our artists, definitely. We want that pride, that sense of dignity and sense of increased self-esteem to really be felt in the broader mass of our community."

CHEERS at the end of the panel discussion for director and choreographer Robert Longbottom, cast members Jose Llana, Alvin Ing, Jodi Long and Salonga, gala cochairs Betty Bael and Fritz Friedman, senior vice president of Columbia Tristar Home Video

ALVIN Ing, who has the honor of being in the original touring production and the revival of "Flower Drum Song," Jodi Long and Salonga

SALONGA explains how her Mei Li will be different during the panel discussion.

PHOTOS BY JANET R. NEPALES

New works by Jeffrey Ching to be performed

BY PABLO A. TARIMAN

ON THIS latest encounter with the media, London-based Filipino composer Jeffrey Ching annotated excerpts from his latest works for violin, cello and piano and yes, the human voice.

The able interpreters were violinist Coke Bolipata, cellist Renato Lucas, pianist Jonathan Coo, and tenor Nolyn Cabahug.

The Song Trio (for violin, cello and piano) had its ample charm, the piece for unaccompanied violin found its musical mark (Ching explained that the incoherent intonation in the violin piece was deliberate as the piece was remote from the technical demands of European classical music).

Ching played a Berlin performance of a suite from his "Terra Kytaorum" (described as rondo variations for 10 brass and three percussionists) and the piece somehow transcended its novel appeal. It was unique and as he explained, he derived it from a water clock. One wondered if one could absorb his music without going through his voluminous, but amazingly erudite program notes.

Many years back, after watching my first "La Gioconda" (with Conching Rosal and Noel Velasco in the lead roles) at the CCP, I found myself watching another opera, "Rendezvous in Venice," and I was stunned to find out that the composer was still a teenager. In the '80s, I sat through several ballets composed by the same teenager ("La Gitana" and ""Carmen I think they were). In the '90s, I heard his art songs and symphonic pieces (most of them commissioned). He sounds more original now.

At this phase of his cycle as a composer, Ching says he is veering away from the use of tonality for some reasons.

"I've been doing it since I was 10 and after a while, I realized that you have nothing more to say and could go no farther without repeating yourself. I had the feeling I would have achieved a certain amount of originality had I stayed as a tonal composer but I've broken off [from] that."

He said it was good to work within the limits of the classical compositional style. But in atonal pieces, he found a substitute, something equally disciplined, something he called ascetic. What he wants now are works that challenge the imagination and society's beliefs.

I had the feeling that in his future works Ching would use the sound of jets and grating sound of buildings falling apart to write a piece of a world gone awry.

But as a habitue of the concert hall for more than 30 years, I reminded Ching that 90 percent of today's conventional concert audiences still love tonal work and abhor the atonal. Proof: deafening silence at the box office when new contemporary works are given world premieres.

Ching was unfazed. "I think you have to listen to new works as a different kind of experience. When you hear a gamelan performance or visit Chinese temples where people chant musical tradition of several centuries, you cannot expect to go to these places and expect them to sound like Mozart. For one, classical music of most nations is not European. And by ignoring music of other countries not related to classical music, we are cutting ourselves off from the musical experience of most of mankind. You will be far richer in musical knowledge and experience coming to terms with notes that cannot be found in a modern piano."

Ching plays his latest works on Sept. 30 at the Francisco Santiago Hall.

JEFFREY Ching

AMBASSADOR Bienvenido Tantoco Sr. and Maestro Ruggero Barbieri

Here and there

THAT was a meaningful birthday recital pianist Jonathan Coo gave at the Greenhills Music Studio. He not only performed the music of Chopin and Kasilag; he also explained them from the musician's point of view, which was very enlightening for the layman as well. Coo will be heard again in a concert with pianist Cecile Basilio Roxas on Oct. 6, 6 p.m., at the Sta. Isabel College.

* * *

A new soloist to watch is violinist Gina Medina, who is the featured artist in the Filipino Artists Series tomorrow, Sept. 25. To be accompanied by J. Greg Zuniega, Medina will perform Vivaldi's Sonata in Re, Brahms' Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108, Chausson's "Poeme" and Ravel's "Tzigane." For tickets, call 832-3878.

'Carmen' in Filipino at CCP

AUDIENCES are in for a rare musical treat as Tanghalang Pilipino, with the Philippine Opera Company, stages "Carmen," a chamber opera in Filipino based on the novel by Prosper Merimee and featuring the music of Bizet.

The experimental production depicts the story of a strong woman who rejects authority, dominates men and even faces death in her desire to be free.

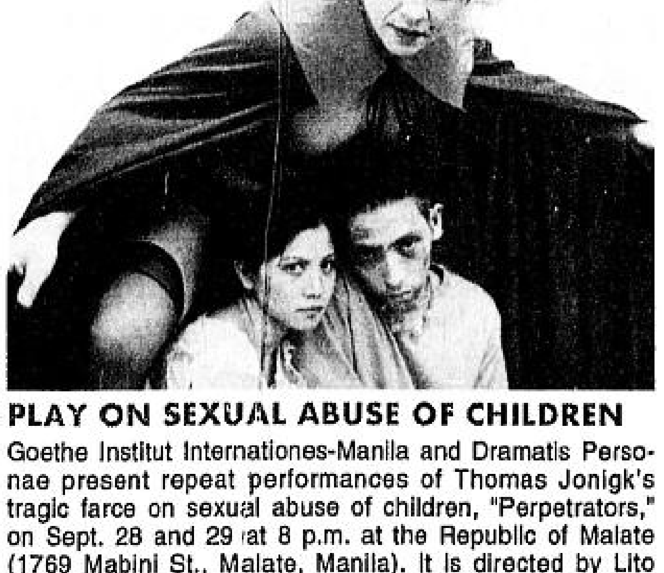
Directed by Nonon Padilla, Bizet's "Carmen" premieres on Oct. 5, 8 p.m., at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino (CCP Little Theater). Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halevey wrote the libretto. Filipino translation is by Jose B. Capino.

Top-caliber performances by Josephine Roces-Chavez, Nolyn Cabahug, Jay Valencia-Glorioso, Eladio Pamaran, Bong Chavez, Roeder Camnag and the TP Actors' Company highlight the musical feast, while music is rendered by the TP Chamber Orchestra under the baton of musical director, Chino Toledo.

"Carmen" is staged for three weekends every Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays with matinees and evening performances. Other dates include Oct. 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, at 8 p.m.; Oct. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, at 2:30 p.m.

Call 832-3661/1125 local 1620, 436-8486, 896-4601, (0917) 812-4519 or (0917) 403-9839.

NOLYN Cabahug, Jay Valencia-Glorioso and Bong Chavez in Tanghalang Pilipino's presentation of Bizet's "Carmen"

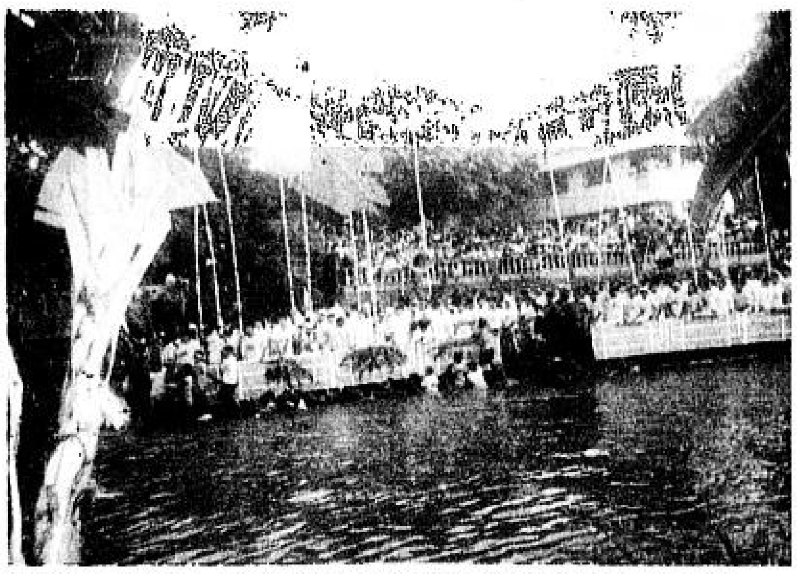


PLAY ON SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Goethe Institut Internationes-Manila and Dramatis Personae present repeat performances of Thomas Jonigk's tragic farce on sexual abuse of children, "Perpetrators," on Sept. 28 and 29 at 8 p.m. at the Republic of Malate (1769 Mabini St., Malate, Manila). It is directed by Lito Casaje. Call 722-4205 or 412-0617, or e-mail Dramatis_Personae@email.com.

'Hiroshima Mon Amour' at Pius XII Theater

ALLIANCE Française de Manille and Dramatis Personae will stage Marguerite Duras' romantic antiwar drama, "Hiroshima Mon Amour," at the Pius XII Theater (Pius XII Catholic Center, 1175 United Nations Ave., Manila) on Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and 7 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The play features Mutya ng Pilipinas-Tourism 2001 Liza Dino, Lito Casaje and Mario Magalona. Call 722-4205 or 412-0617, or e-mail Dramatis_Personae@email.com.



THE COLORFUL river parade that highlights the Peñafrancia feast

Fluvial procession . . .

(From page E3)

end Sept. 27. Sept. 28 is the saint's feast.

'Visita iglesia' through Digitel

THERE are at least 28 churches in Tommy Ranada's "Visita Iglesia Digital Folio." It took almost one year (Oct. 2000-Aug. 2001) to go to all the churches and take photographs using a Kodak DC280 digital camera.

The folio incorporates a software, ACDSee, which shows the photos automatically in sequence as a slide presentation. To access and view the photos faster, it is advisable to copy the contents of the folio to the computer hard disk and view the photos from it.

For details, please call Tommy Ranada at 928-3464 or e-mail uptrend@pacific.net.ph.

Our Lady of Manaoag schedule

HERE is the schedule of the pilgrim image of Our Lady of Manaoag: Sept. 25-26, Quezon City General Hospital, Edsa, QC; Sept. 26-29, Correctional Institution for Women, Welfareville, Mandaluyong; Sept. 29-Oct. 8, St. John the Baptist Parish, Pinaglabanan, San Juan. We'll keep you posted.

St. Expeditus statues

THOSE who want statues of St. Expeditus can call 725-2467 or go to Star Mall on Shaw Boulevard where you can find a religious store that sells such statues. Also, belated happy birthday to Fr. Diwane Cacao (Sept. 7), a devotee of St. Expeditus.

Tabernacle for Romblon chapel

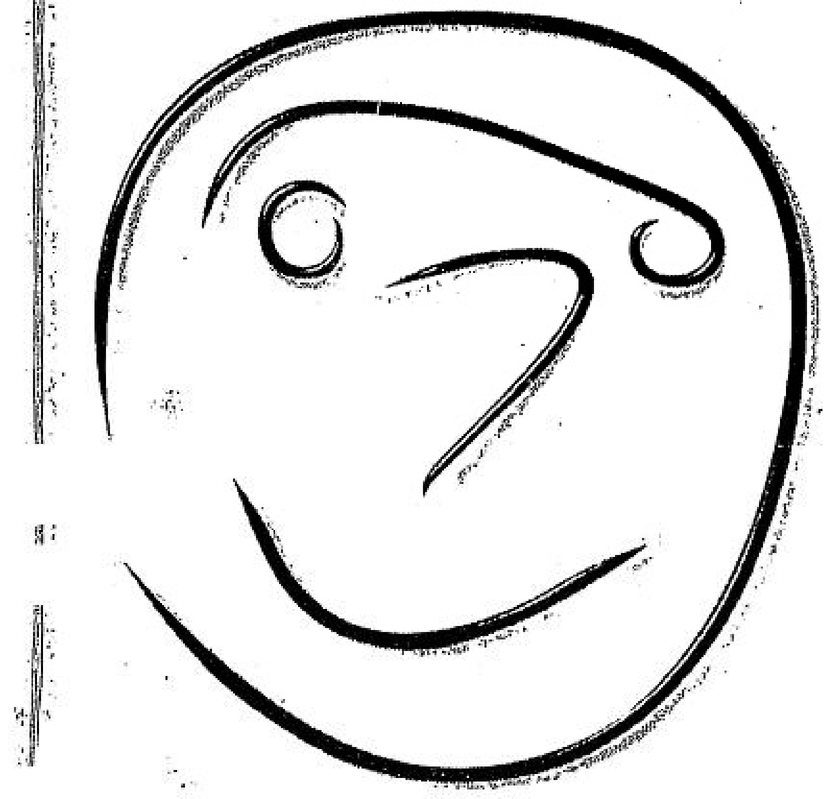
THE FAMILY of Martina Festin on her mother side, the Morenos, donated land for a chapel in Barangay Doña Juana in San Agustin, Romblon. The chapel is dedicated to San Nicolas de Tolentino, whose feast is celebrated on Sept. 10.

LEONOR Martinez Ong, caretaker of the Nuestra Señora de Dapitan

Residents who helped build the chapel need a tabernacle for the altar. Those who want to help can beep me at 141-020543.

'Chicken Soup for the Soul'

AMID talks of war, I sought comfort in prayer and in reading "Chicken Soup for the Soul" (for the Unsinkable Soul and for the Christian Family Soul). During times like these, we need to seek solace from people who have survived all the odds. They have kept the faith and we should, too. We have to continue to pray for peace and release all thoughts of war. We cannot afford it, emotionally, physically. We cannot put the lives of our soldiers and our people on the line, although we don't condone terrorism.



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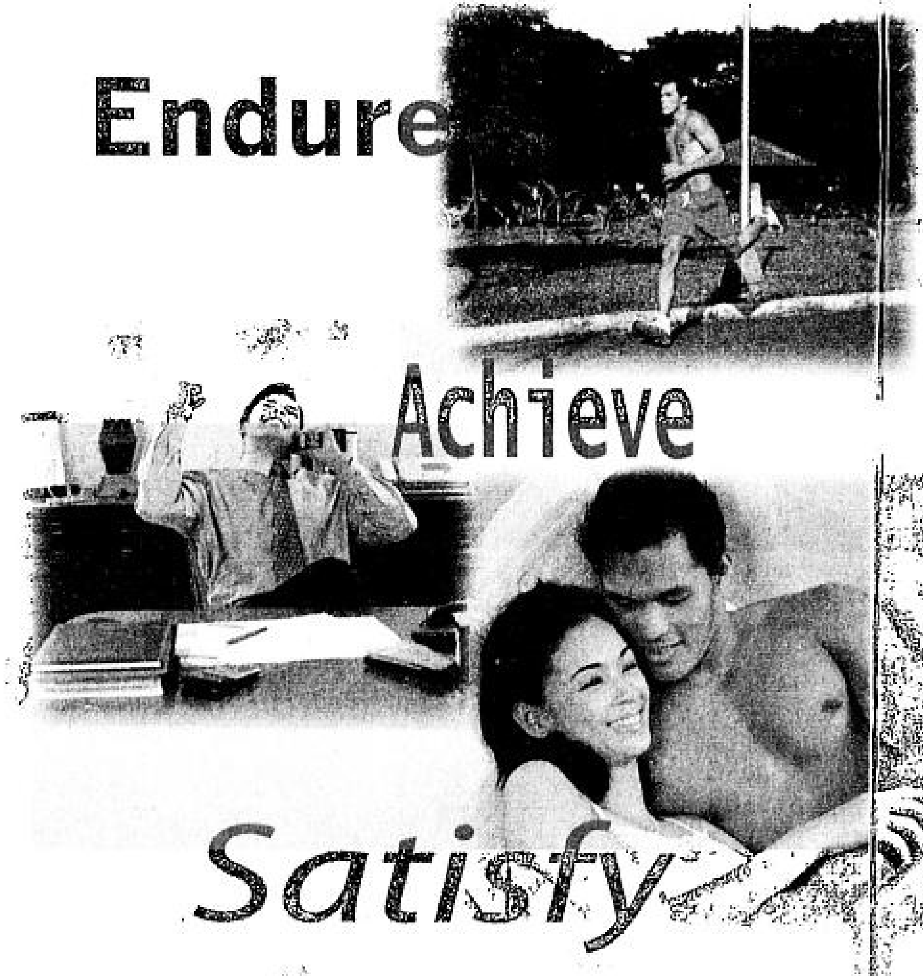

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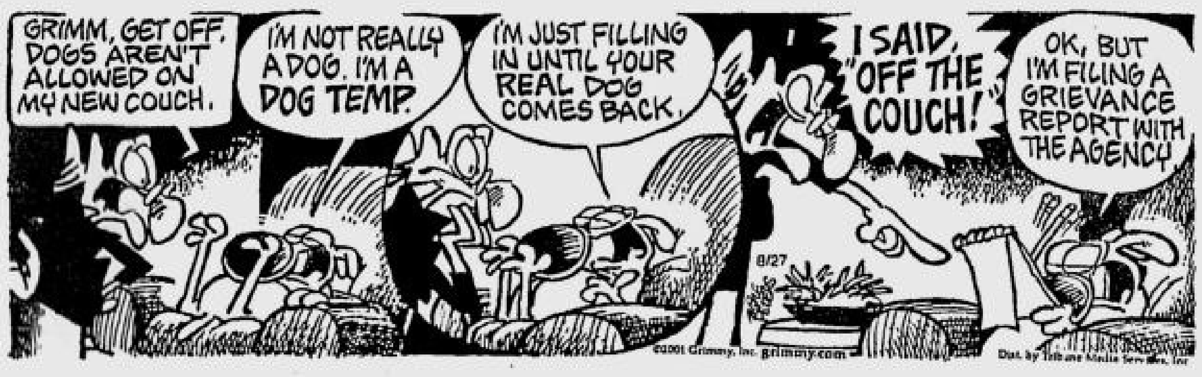
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, GET OFF. DOGS AREN'T ALLOWED ON MY NEW COUCH.
I'M NOT REALLY A DOG. I'M A DOG TEMP.
I'M JUST FILLING IN UNTIL YOUR REAL DOG COMES BACK.
I SAID, "OFF THE COUCH!"
OK, BUT I'M FILING A GRIEVANCE REPORT WITH THE AGENCY
8/27
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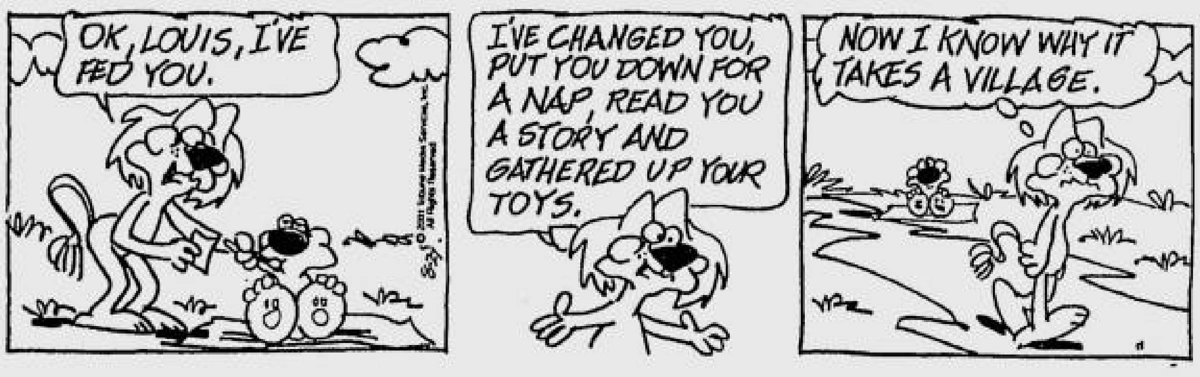
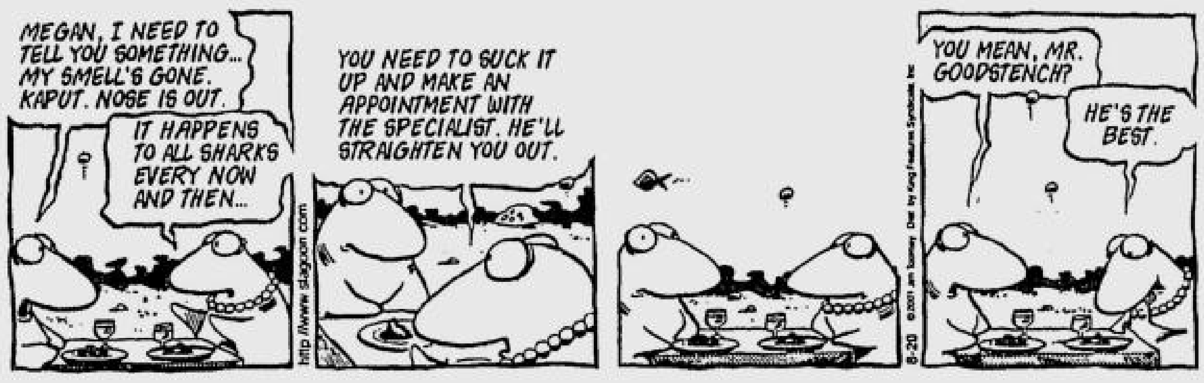
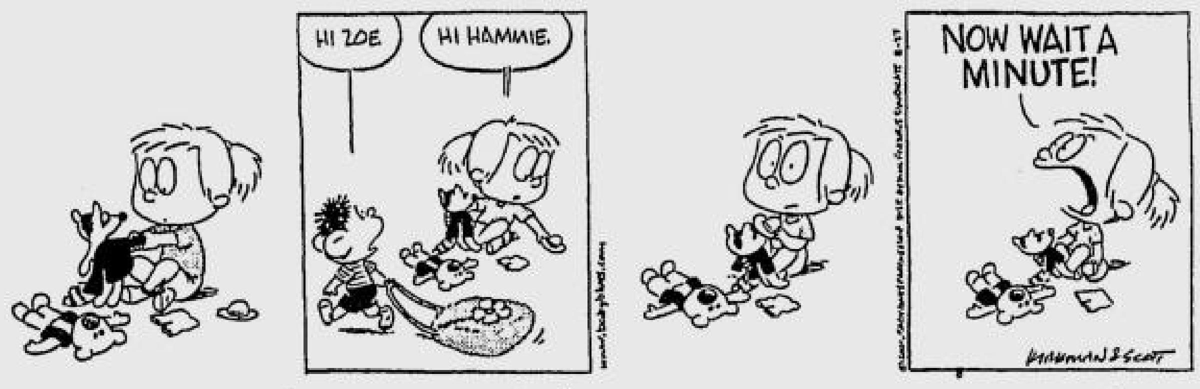
ANIMAL CRACKER
BY FRED WAGNER


OK, LOUIS, I'VE FED YOU.
I'VE CHANGED YOU, PUT YOU DOWN FOR A NAP, READ YOU A STORY AND GATHERED UP YOUR TOYS.
NOW I KNOW WHY IT TAKES A VILLAGE.

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


MEGAN, I NEED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING... MY SMELL'S GONE. KAPUT. NOSE IS OUT.
IT HAPPENS TO ALL SHARKS EVERY NOW AND THEN...
YOU NEED TO SUCK IT UP AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SPECIALIST. HE'LL STRAIGHTEN YOU OUT.
YOU MEAN, MR. GOODSTENCH?
HE'S THE BEST.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-20

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


HI ZOE
HI HAMMIE.
NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jim Henson, Phil Hartman, Jim McKay, Sheila MacRae, Joseph Kennedy II

Happy Birthday: Thirsty for knowledge and searching for truth, you're traveling down your own path. You are looking for a lifestyle that suits your personality, instead of being stuck in a world that is too conservative for you. You must find the strength to overcome your fears and move on to better things. Your reluctance to let go of what you have is holding you back. Your numbers: 9, 14, 26, 29, 33, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take positive action and sign up for seminars that will expand your business awareness. You need more information if you want to start your own business.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think about attending a cultural community event or taking up an interesting pastime. You will be happiest if you are learning without overspending. Set a budget and stick to it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Financial opportunities are present. Don't be hesitant to travel if it means that you might close a deal or meet someone who can help you aspire to your ambition.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Favorable changes regarding either business or personal partnerships are evident. You must act on your impulses and make a decision quickly. If you overeat, you will put on the pounds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You need to get out and challenge yourself. Your ability to achieve will be second to none, and you can expect a pat on the back for your accomplishments.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Socialize with your peers. You will have fun and learn interesting information that will prove useful later in the week. Someone you least expect will be helpful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Go out with a friend. You may receive some good advice about your personal problems. You've been avoiding situations that will only worsen if you don't attend to them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider a pleasurable activity. You owe yourself some rest and relaxation. This is a great day to talk to friends and to catch up on correspondence.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let a partner hold you back. Opportunities to make moves or money are present, but you must be ready to face up to anyone who tries to lead you in the opposite direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Secret affairs lead to deception. Be honest with yourself before becoming involved with someone who is likely to lead you on. You'll need a good friend to lean on.

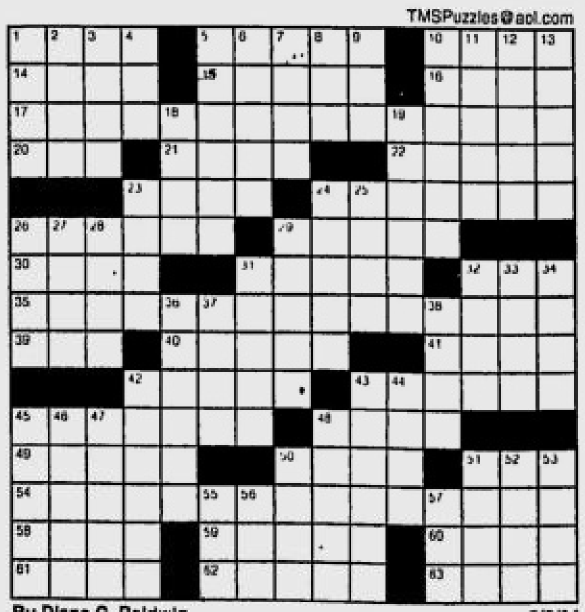
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There will be plenty of activities all around. Friends are likely to drop by unexpectedly. If you're curious about someone from your past, give him or her a call.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can rely on your family to offer the support you're looking for. However, a family member may be less than accommodating if you try to get him or her to pitch in.

Birthday Baby: You are hard-working, determined and eager to get to the bottom of things. You are a contributor and an achiever. You are hard to keep up with and easy to admire and respect.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

8/9/01

ACROSS
1 Spoiled tot
5 Conspicuous success
10 Time-wasting bothers
14 Top-notch
15 Unattached
16 Highland hillside
17 Eliminated past work
20 Fell trees
21 Holiday precursors
22 Slender candle
23 Difficulties
24 Cud-chewers, often
26 Composer Strauss
29 Garlic section
30 Related (to)
31 Pontificate
32 Public transport
35 Turned over a new leaf
39 Automatic advance in a tournament
40 Sugar pieces
41 Gymnast Korbut
42 Bitter
43 Cigar aficionado
45 Engine part
48 Pound or Frost
49 So to be heard
50 Duration
51 Hit the slopes
54 Remembered no more
58 Palliate
59 Conscious
60 Place to skate
61 Coloring agents
62 Damp
63 Uptight

DOWN
1 Baroque master
2 Function
3 In a different form
4 Brew in a bag
5 Nearly a dozen
6 Systems of rules
7 Oodles
8 Cinder
9 Links starting place
10 Burning
11 Hang in loose folds
12 Horse opera
13 Crystal ball gazers
18 Inert gas
19 Barrel ribs
23 Diminish gradually
24 Tumbler
25 Kind of IRA
26 Door frame piece
27 Approve
28 Take cover
29 Church doctrine
31 Planet's path
32 Act mulish
33 Hankering
34 Have top billing
36 Give consent
37 Roll up
38 Whistle blast
42 Treats wrongly
43 Ice dessert
44 Written reminder
45 Stood up to
46 Assuage
47 Hangman's loop
48 Quick looks
50 Bangkok native
51 Slide sideways
52 King or Donkey follower
53 Very black
55 Beaver construction
56 Tango team
57 Unrefined mineral

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	C	H	A	■	B	U	S	H	■	B	R	A	N
E	L	L	E	N	■	O	T	T	O	■	E	U	R	O
A	P	O	R	T	■	G	A	O	L	■	A	S	T	O
D	O	G	E	A	R	■	H	O	L	S	T	E	I	N
■	■	■	F	E	A	T	■	L	O	U	I	S	E	S
U	N	S	O	U	G	H	T	■	W	E	T	■	■	■
N	E	A	R	S	■	O	R	D	E	R	■	D	U	B
T	E	N	D	■	D	R	I	E	D	■	G	E	R	E
O	D	D	■	P	E	N	A	L	■	S	U	E	D	E
■	■	■	T	I	C	■	L	A	P	P	E	D	U	P
N	E	G	A	T	E	D	■	Y	E	A	R	■	■	■
A	Y	R	S	H	I	R	E	■	A	N	N	U	A	L
I	D	E	S	■	V	I	V	A	■	I	S	S	U	E
L	I	T	E	■	E	V	A	S	■	S	E	E	T	O
S	E	A	L	■	D	E	N	S	■	H	Y	S	O	N

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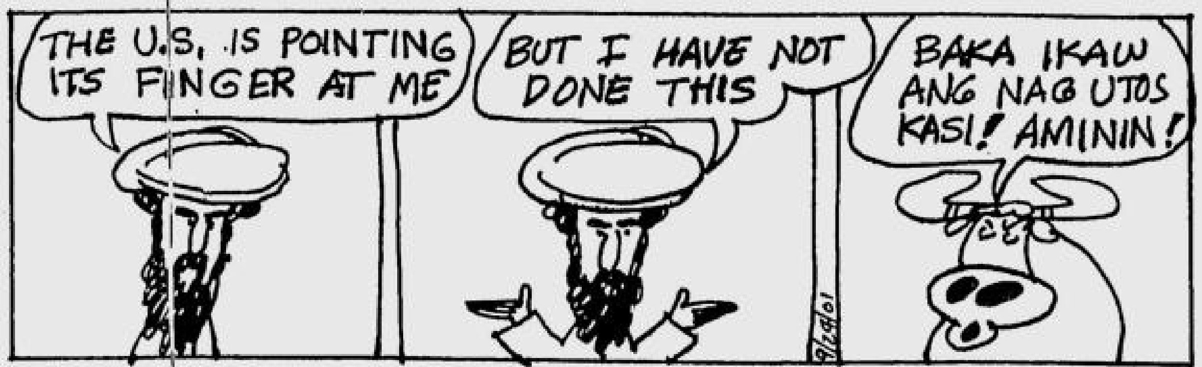
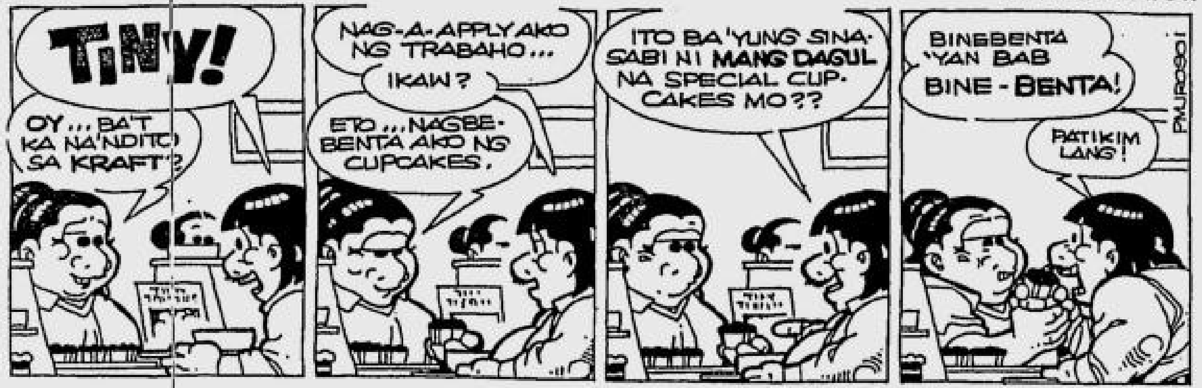
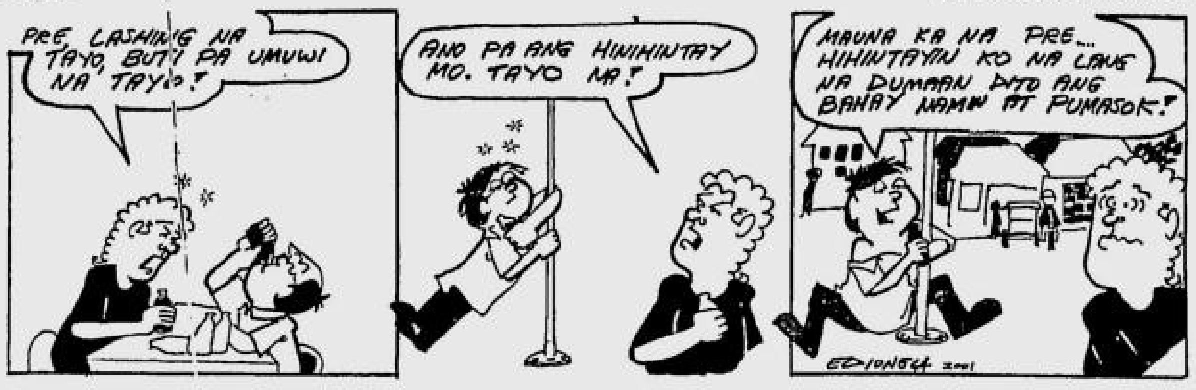
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


THE U.S. IS POINTING ITS FINGER AT ME
BUT I HAVE NOT DONE THIS
BAKA IKAW ANG NAG UTOS KASI! AMININ!
9/24/01

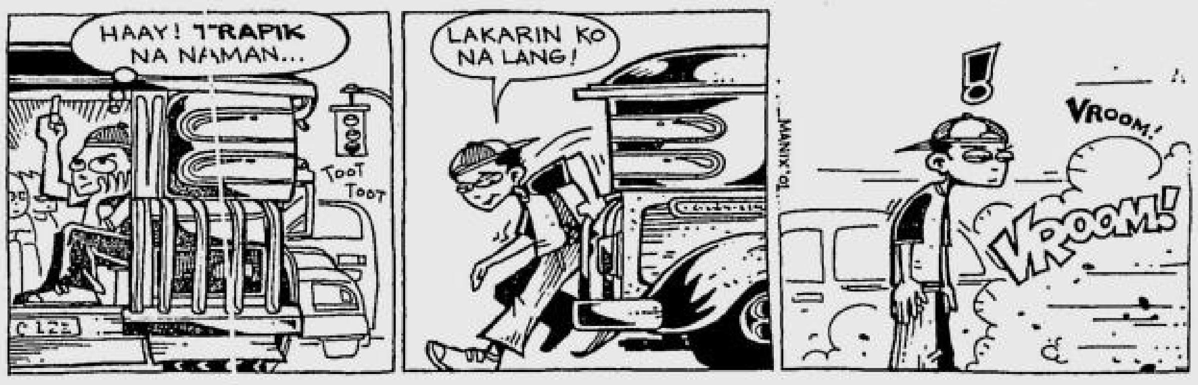
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


TINY!
OY... BA'T KA NA'NDITO SA KRAFT?
NAG-A-APPLY AKO NG TRABAHO...
IKAW?
ETO... NAGBEBENTA AKO NG CUPCAKES.
ITO BA 'YUNG SINASABI NI MANG DAGUL NA SPECIAL CUPCAKES MO??
BINEBENTA 'YAN BAB BINE-BENTA!
PATIKIM LANG!
PMJR2001

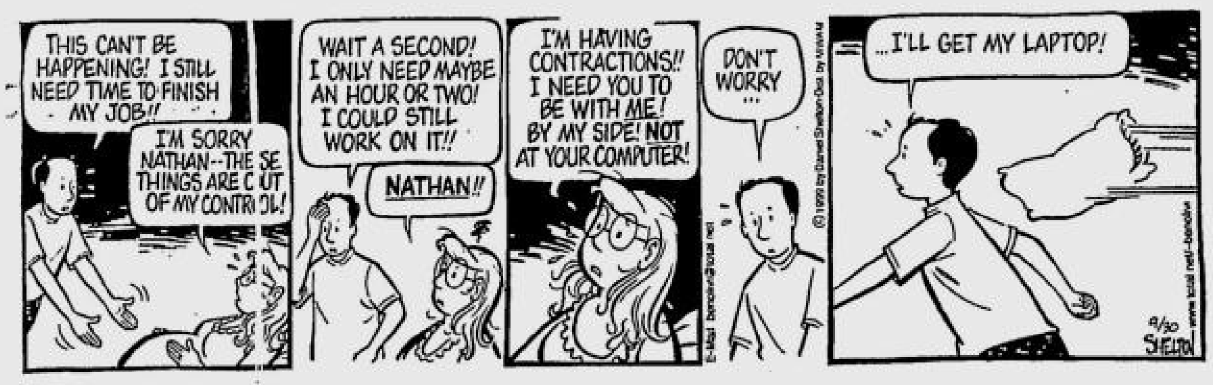
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


PRE, LASHING NA TAYO, BUTI PA UMUWI NA TAYO!
ANO PA ANG HINIHINTAY MO. TAYO NA!
MAUNA KA NA PRE... HIHINTAYIN KO NA LANG NA DUMAAN DITO ANG BAHAY NAMIN AT PUMASOK!
EDIONELA 2001

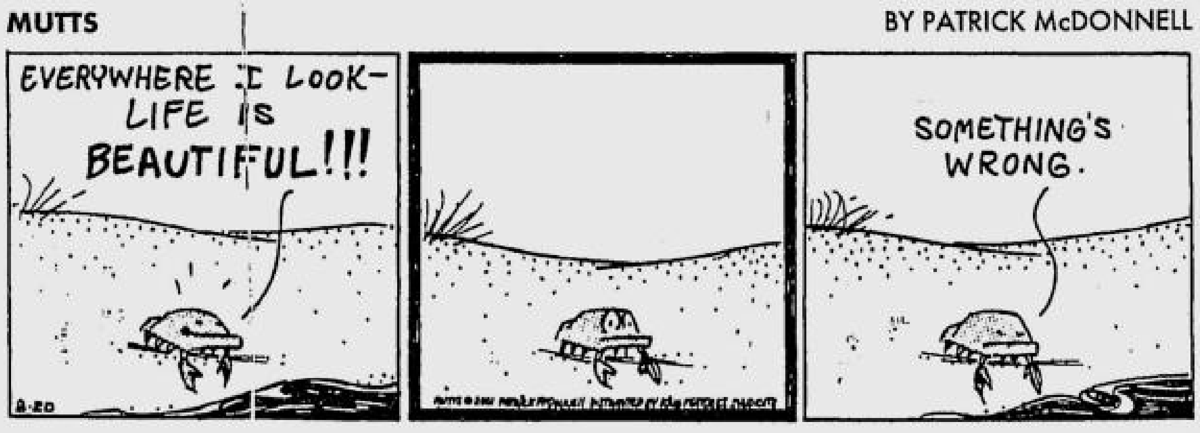
GARAPATA BILOOD
BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


HAAY! TRAPIK NA NAMAN...
TOOT TOOT
C 122
LAKARIN KO NA LANG!
MANIX '01
!
VROOM!
VROOM!

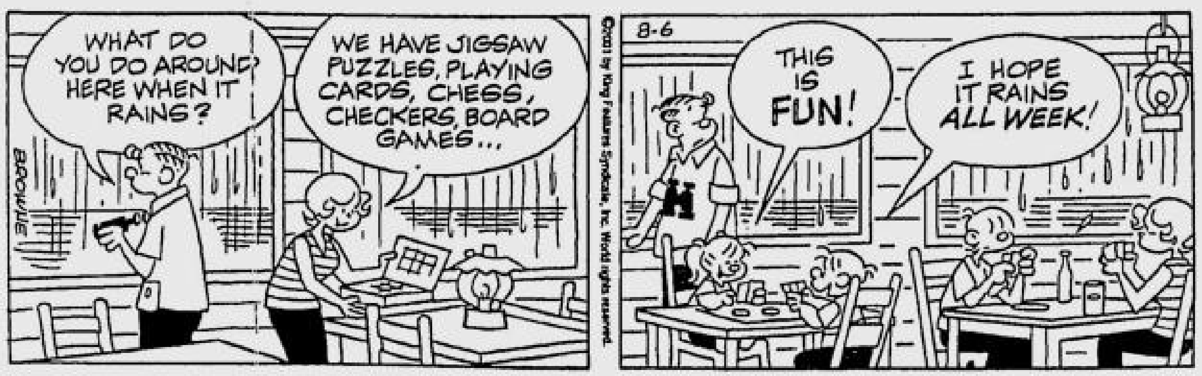
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! I STILL NEED TIME TO FINISH MY JOB!!
I'M SORRY NATHAN--THESE THINGS ARE OUT OF MY CONTROL!
WAIT A SECOND! I ONLY NEED MAYBE AN HOUR OR TWO! I COULD STILL WORK ON IT!!
NATHAN!!
I'M HAVING CONTRACTIONS!! I NEED YOU TO BE WITH ME! BY MY SIDE! NOT AT YOUR COMPUTER!
DON'T WORRY ...
...I'LL GET MY LAPTOP!
9/30 SHELTON

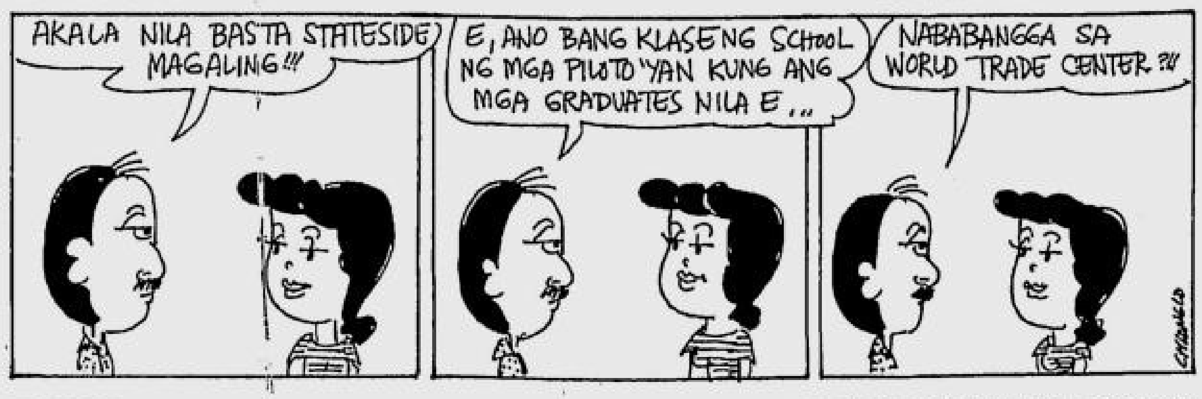
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


EVERYWHERE I LOOK— LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL!!!
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
8-20

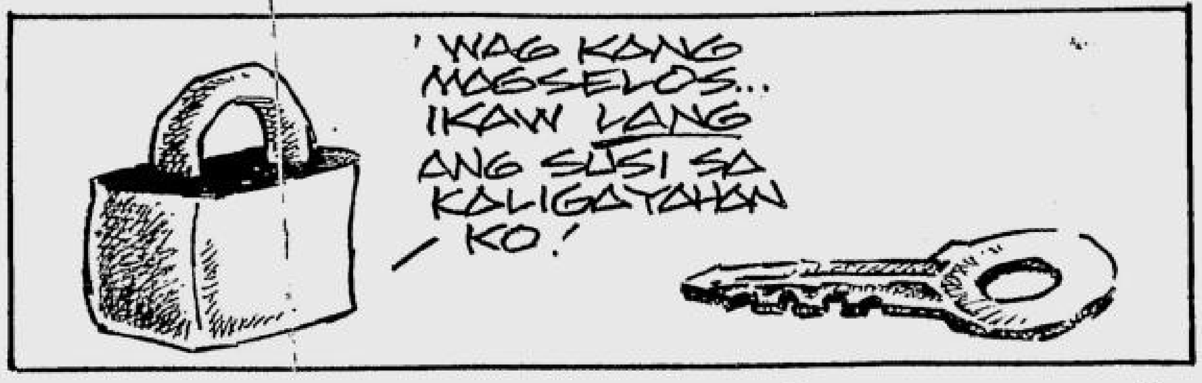
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHAT DO YOU DO AROUND HERE WHEN IT RAINS?
WE HAVE JIGSAW PUZZLES, PLAYING CARDS, CHESS, CHECKERS, BOARD GAMES...
8-6
THIS IS FUN!
I HOPE IT RAINS ALL WEEK!

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AKALA NILA BASTA STATESIDE MAGALING!!!
E, ANO BANG KLASENG SCHOOL NG MGA PILOTO 'YAN KUNG ANG MGA GRADUATES NILA E...
NABABANGGA SA WORLD TRADE CENTER ?!!

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG MAGSELOS... IKAW LANG ANG SUSI SA KALIGAYAHAN KO!

Cardinal Sin to award Catholic authors today

THE RENOWNED late historian Fr. Horacio de la Costa, S.J. will be bestowed the Lux in Cordibus Award during the Catholic Authors Awards ceremonies today at the Villa San Miguel, the residence of the Archbishop of Manila.

The award has been instituted by Jaime L. Cardinal Sin to give recognition to the Filipino writer and author whose body of written works and whose life have had a great impact on the life of the Church and of Filipinos in the last century.

During the program, Fr. Catalino G. Arevalo, S.J. will explain the rationale for the award, while Dr. Roberto Paterno will give biographical sketch of Father De la Costa, and a brief talk on his writings.

A special feature of the awarding ceremonies held every year in September is the presentation of selections from Ryan Cayabyab's "Mass for Peace."

This year's Catholic Authors awardees, who will receive special trophies during the program, are Msgr. Rodolfo E. Villanueva, Dr. Antonio Torralba, Fr. Roque Ferriols, S.J., Fr. Lucio Gutierrez, O.P. and Dulce Festin-Baybay.

Villanueva is the real name of the novelist "Renato Madrid." He is a monsignor of the Cebu archdiocese. Torralba is the medical director of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital and writer of articles on medicine and health. Father Ferriols is a philosopher and faculty member of the Ateneo de Manila University. Father Gutierrez is archivist of the UST Archives, regent of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, and the author of the first volume of the history of the Archdiocese of Manila. His latest book is "Domingo de Salazar, O.P., First Bishop of Manila," published by the UST Publishing House. Festin-Baybay is a biographer, columnist and historical researcher.

The books of past and present Catholic Authors awardees will be displayed at the Villa San Miguel to highlight the event.

The Catholic Author Awards are given by the Asian Catholic Publishers Inc., under the auspices of Jaime L. Cardinal Sin as chair. The award given to writers, authors, and composers whose works and life mirror best Christian values and foster evangelization.

Mag for the total person

MBS, the magazine of mind, body and spirit was launched recently at the Legend Hotel in Mandaluyong City Published by Solar Publishing Corp., the new magazine has Jaime T Licauco, well-known Filipino author, INQUIRER columnist and psychic researcher, as editor in chief.

According to Licauco, the MBS magazine "features articles about the whole man which is composed of mind, body and spirit." It also deals with the esoteric and mystical culture of the Philippines which is not often found in local magazines.

The contributors and writers of the magazine include Cory Quirino, Merlina Merton, Mimi Tan, Helen Mirasol, Dr. Ting Escobar, Pinky Farolan, Maggie de la Riva, Frances Gloria, Dr. Rory Pascual, Crysta Rara, Melvin Alvior and others in the Philippines. It also has contributors from abroad, such as Andrea Cagan of Los Angeles, Felix Fojas of Chico, California, Dr. Lee Pulos of Vancouver, Canada, and Dr. Donald McDowall of Australia.

Seen during the launching of MBS magazine were Dr. Vicky Belo, Belle Corp. executive Carlos Delfino and his wife Tomoko, businessman Joselito Jacinto and various psychic healers and members of Mr. Licauco's Inner Mind Association of the Philippines.

Published bimonthly, MBS magazine is available at National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

Self-healing book reissued

DUE to insistent public demand, Anvil Publishing Inc. reissues "Wuji Yuan Gong: Qigong for Self-healing and Enlightenment" by the International Sheng Zhen Society. The book teaches the practice of *qigong*, a series of Chinese meditative or physical movements that cultivate the *qi* or life force thus resulting in better health.

The book not only helps people become more healthy physically, it also develops the minds and souls of practitioners and helps them to awaken their spirits by transcending differences, loving selflessly and living in peace and brotherhood with the rest of the world.

The exercises in the book can be practiced even by those who are weak and have physical disabilities.

Now in its second printing, "Wuji Yuan Gong" is available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

'Baking Made EC'

THE SEQUEL to the best-selling "Kusina ni EC" (Anvil 1998) by teacher turned food writer Eufemia C. Estrada or "EC" is now available in your favorite bookstores. The book, "Baking Made EC," contains 70 traditional and new well-loved family recipes for pastries like cakes, cookies, pies, tarts and breads.

"Baking Made EC" is a unique book that runs along the lines of books such as those by Mexican writer Laura Esquivel ("Like Water for Chocolate"). Unlike most local and foreign cookbooks that rattle off ingredients and directions for cooking impersonally, "Baking Made EC" is liberally peppered by the author's personal stories, short commentaries and practical tips told with warmth and humor. Baking with the book will not only make the job easier, it will also feel as if an aunt or grandmommy is working with you, side by side, while dispensing valuable baking advice.

Ilonggo literary prize

THE CONCEPCION Hosillos Literary prize for 2001 has been opened for competition. This year's prize is for the Novelette in Hiligaynon. The cardinal rule of the contest is that the novelette is written in the Hiligaynon language. The other rules are:

The contest is open to everybody, including Filipinos residing abroad and even to foreigners. The novelette can be on any subject, topic, theme and content using any method, technique and style of literary creation. It should be from 50-75 pages.

The manuscript should be typewritten or in computer printout by black ribbon on white bond paper 11x8½", double-spaced with 1" margin on all sides of the paper. The name of the author and other signs of identity and markings should not appear in any part of the manuscript.

A confirmation that the novelette is original and truly the work of the author should accompany the manuscript. The confirmation form can be obtained from the address below.

Three copies of the novelette; name, pen name, address, telephone number, e-mail address (if any) and the title of the novelette typed on a bond paper; the original copy of the confirmation; and the biodata and writings of the author should be submitted in a sealed envelope. These will be used in writeups for announcements in case the author wins a prize.

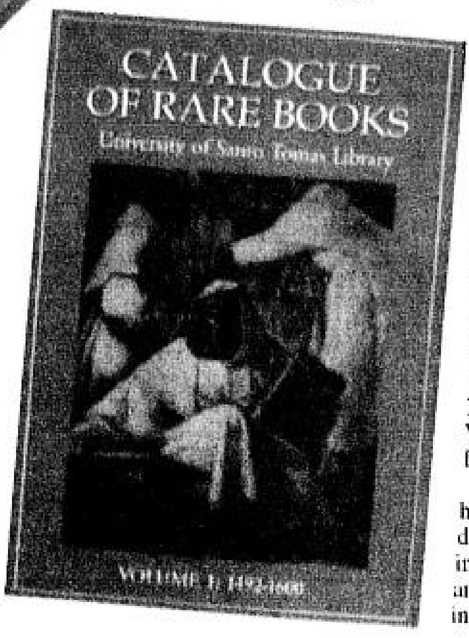
The original copy of the novelette and two duplicates shall be submitted. The duplicates can be photocopies, provided that these are clear and easily readable. Unreadable manuscripts shall be disqualified.

Manuscripts should reach the sponsor on or before Dec. 8. The sponsor is not responsible for lost and late manuscripts. It is suggested that manuscripts be sent by registered mail, express mail or courier for safe delivery.

The prizes are: (first) P7,000. (second) P5,000 and (third) P3,000. The winners will be announced at the Dinagyang festival in January in Iloilo City. The decision of the judges shall prevail and shall be final.

The novelettes and their enclosures should be sent to: The Concepcion Hosillos Literary Prize, 24/25 Block 3, Fatima Village, Sta. Cruz, Villa de Arevalo, 5000 Iloilo City.

Catalog of UST rare books to be launched

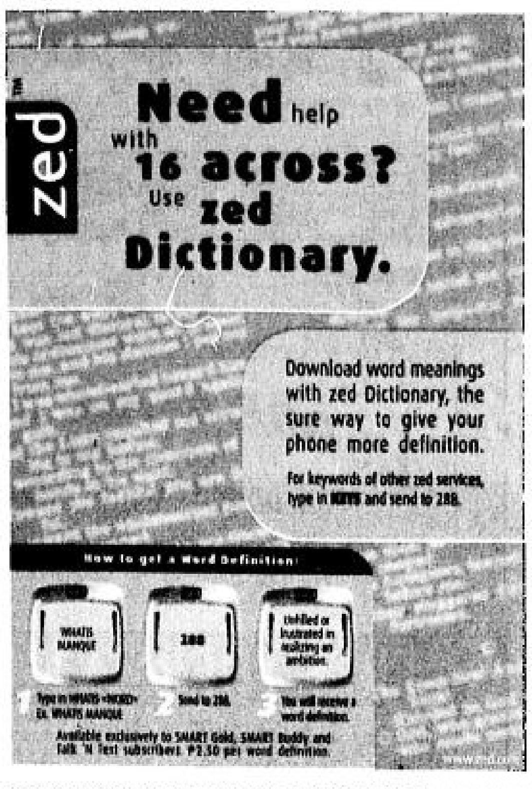


THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas will launch the hardbound book, "Catalogue of Rare Books, University of Santo Tomas Library, Vol. 1: 1429-1600," at the UST Central Library building, on Sept. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

The book classifies the important rare books in the UST collection, a priceless legacy of the Dominican priests and missionaries who have worked in the Philippines for more than 400 years.

The first volume has two parts. The first part is the complete listing of 466 old titles in the collection, including an incunabulum published in 1492 and works up to the 16th century. Of these titles, 253 were included in the reports by Leila M. Maynard and Robert M. Strong, internees during World War II in the UST concentration camp. The reports form the second part of the book.

The book is edited by Fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P., who finished his vachelor degrees inphilosophy and theology at the Instituto de Filosofia y Teologia San Pedro Martir in Madrid, his licentiate in sacred scriptures at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and his doctorate at the Ecole Biblique et Archeologique Francaise in Jerusalem. Since 1992, he has been Prefect of Libraries of UST.


zed
Need help with 16 across? Use zed Dictionary.
Download word meanings with zed Dictionary, the sure way to give your phone more definition.
For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.
How to get a Word Definition:
1 Type in WHATIS <WORD> Ex. WHATIS MANQUE
2 Send to 288.
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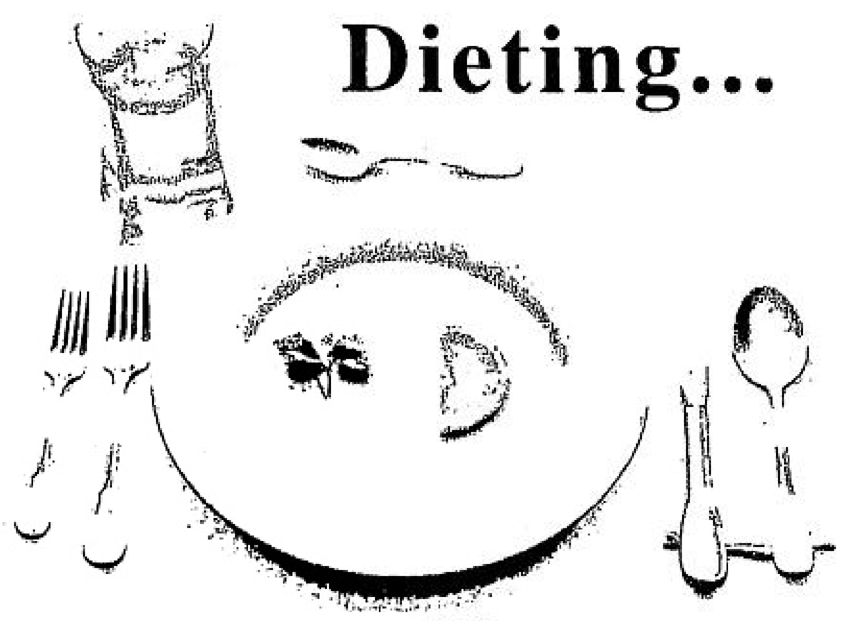
Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers. P2.50 per word definition.

Do You want P25,000 WEEKLY?
Shop & Win at MASAGANA SUPERSTORE
FAMILY LIBO-LIBO LINGGO-LINGGO
Over P2.5 million in total prizes
TAX INCLUDED
52 WINNERS OF P25,000 GIFT CERTIFICATE EACH
4 WINNERS OF P25,000 CASH EACH
THOUSANDS OF P CONSOLATION PRIZES
SEE LEAFLETS FOR COMPLETE DETAILS
25 Silver Shopping Festival
Masagana Superstore
SHOPPING and A BOUNTIFUL LIFE!
TAFT COR., T.M. KALAW, M.A. • MASAGANA CITIMALL, PASAY

Dieting...

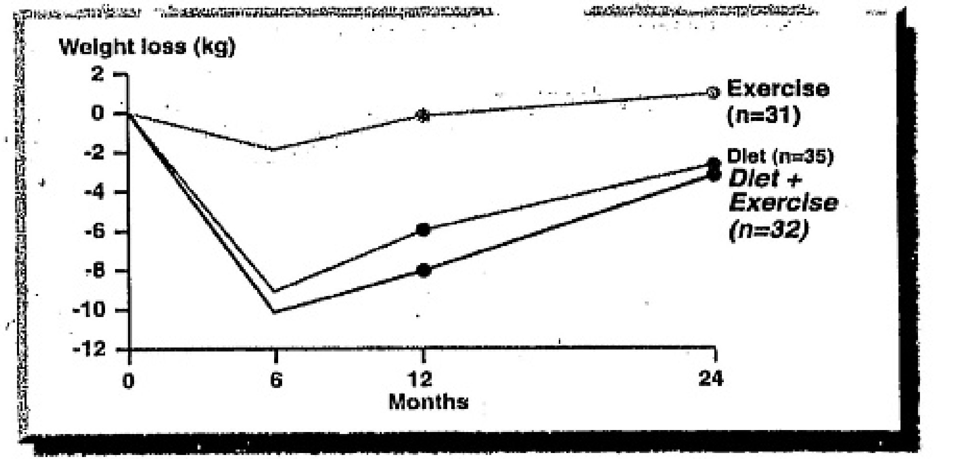


can make you gain 20% more weight

"I must admit that whenever I diet, I lose weight. But after I stopped dieting, I noticed that I immediately gained the weight I lost. Sometimes, more."

Anna, 35 yrs. old

Crash dieting never guarantees long term weight loss, specially if there is a mechanism in your body that makes you over-eat to recover the fat you lost. According to the 1998 scientific study shown below, ***dieting and exercise can make you lose weight but after 6 months, the weight you lost is slowly gained back in spite of the continued program.***



Wing RR et al. *Diabetes Care* 1998;21;350-9

Consult your doctor about the 10 20 30 *Program today!*

You can also fax your questions at 634-0045 c/o REDUCTIL along with your name and address. Or e-mail: reductil-ph@abbott.com

Do you wish for a perfect wedding?
I do...
A Bridal Fair

Your wedding day should be as beautiful as your wedding vows! The Manila Midtown Hotel and The Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers cordially invite you to a one-stop bridal fair entitled "I Do". Consult with the finest wedding organizers, catch the hottest designs in bridal gowns, find out the newest styles in flower arrangements, see a display of the latest cake designs and many more!
Don't miss this lovely event on **September 29-30, 2001** at the Intramuros Ballroom, The Manila Midtown Hotel. See you there!

Brought to you by PAFD Philippine Academy of Fashion Designers
in cooperation with
NEW LISTERINE
Joey 92.3 Rhythms
2.B.4.U. Corp.
Hairwatch
Balloons @ My Wedding
Celebration Cakes

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Telephone: (632)526-7001; Fax: (632)522-2629; email: mmh_bc@netasia.net

Hanks-Spielberg TV series is also a book

NATIONAL Bookstore author of the month for September, Stephen E. Ambrose, is one of the preeminent historians of our generation. His books are some of the most revered, and best-selling historical titles ever published.

Now, Ambrose makes history again with his newest book, "Band of Brothers," an HBO miniseries produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg starting on Oct. 27. "Band of Brothers" is the history of Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division during World War II. It chronicles the lives of the company's soldiers from their basic training in 1942 to D-Day.

Ambrose's other New York Times bestsellers include "Citizen Solders," "D-Day June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II," "Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West."

Ambrose is the founder of the Eisenhower Center and National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. He has won the Abraham Lincoln Literary Award, the Will Rogers Memorial Award and the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal from the Department of Defense.

Anvil is publisher of the year

FOR THE SIXTH time and the third straight year, the Manila Critics Circle has cited Anvil Publishing Inc. as Outstanding Publisher of the Year during the recent National Book Awards 2000. Ten of its titles have also won Book Awards in the following categories:

Anthology: "Intsik: An Anthology of Filipino-Chinese Writing," edited by Caroline Hau;

Biography: "Teacher to Tycoon: The Life and Times of Trinidad Diaz Enriquez" by Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio;

Cartoons: "The Best of A. Lipin: Cartoon Strips 1985-2000" by Jess Abrera (INQUIRER Books and Anvil); Editing: "Lina Flor: Collected Works," edited and introduced by Soledad S. Reyes;

Journalism: "Public Faces, Private Lives" by Lorna Kalaw-Tirol;

Poetry: "Edad Medya: Mga Tula sa Katanghaliang Gulang" by Jose F. Lacaba and "Waking Ice" by Ricardo M. de Ungria;

Travel: "Philippine Ecodestinations" by Amadis Ma. Guerrero and "Why I Travel and Other Essays by Fourteen Women" by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo and Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio;

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